

HOMOCOMFORMIST.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 490.]

LONDON: TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1855.

[Price 6d.]

PATRON: H. R. H. PRINCE ALBERT.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.

MONDAY EVENING, the 19th Inst., LECTURE by Dr. LANKESTER, F.R.S., &c., on the REMEMBRANCES OF PLANTS and ANIMALS.—Tuesday Evening, TELEPHONIC CONCERT by INVISIBLE PERFORMERS, by J. H. PEPPER, Esq.—Thursday, DRAMATIC READING, by Mr. HUGH LESLIE MACBETH.—Friday, ASTRONOMY, by Dr. BASSHOFFNER, with appropriate Music.

The TYROLESE MINSTRELS, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Evenings.

Friday Evening, Mrs. FOWLES, on ORAL INSTRUCTION.

The STREAM-GUN, DISOLVING VIEWS OF THE WAR, DIORAMA OF SIEGEAD the SAILOR, COMEDYMAS, the Concert by INVISIBLE PERFORMERS, and all the LECTURES, on the NEW BANK NOTE, &c., as usual.

JOHN B. GOUGH will deliver ORATIONS in EXETER HALL as follows: THURSDAYS, the 22nd, and 29th March; MONDAY, the 26th March.

Doors open each Evening at Seven; Chair taken at Eight o'clock.

Tickets—Body of the Hall, 6d.; Reserved Seats and Platform, 1s. May be had at the Offices of the London Temperance League, 287, Strand.

Also, in the HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS, on TUESDAY, March 27. Chair taken at Three o'clock in the Afternoon. Admission, 1s.; Reserved Seats, 2s.

WANTED, early in April, a well-educated YOUNG MAN, as ASSISTANT in a CLASSICAL and COMMERCIAL SCHOOL. He must be a competent French Scholar, and a knowledge of German, though not essential, would be an additional recommendation. A member of an Independent or Baptist Church, if suitable in other respects, would be preferred, and unexceptionable references will be required.

Apply, stating age, references, attainments, and salary, to A. B., Mr. Silverside's, Stationer, Warwick-street, Leamington.

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TO TEA-DEALERS AND GROCERS.—WANTED, by a YOUNG MAN of Christian principles, good experience, and reference, a SITUATION. No objection to town or country.

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A Dwelling-house, Garden, and Orchard, attached to the above, can be had if required.

TO SCHOOLMASTERS.—WANTED, immediately, in a British School, a CERTIFIED MASTER; Salary, 50*s.*

Apply, W. Z., Wareham, Dorset.

TO PARENTS.—Messrs. H. and R. KEMP, Drapers, Market-place, Leicester, have a VACANCY for a well-educated Youth as an APPRENTICE.

TO GROCER'S ASSISTANTS.—WANTED, in a WHOLESALE and RETAIL GROCERY and PROVISION WAREHOUSE, in a Market Town, a CONFIDENTIAL ASSISTANT, thoroughly conversant with every department.

Apply to W. D. Rest, Ware.

TO DRAPER'S ASSISTANTS.—WANTED, an active JUNIOR ASSISTANT. The most satisfactory reference required as to ability and character.

Address, William Fagg, Folkestone.

TO IRONMONGERS.—WANTED, a SITUATION by a YOUNG MAN, who has been four years at the trade. He can be well recommended by his late employer both for integrity and industry.

Apply to Frederick Gane, Burton-on-Trent.

TO TAILORS.—Wanted, for One or Two Years, in a First-class Trade in a fashionable Town, a short distance from London, a YOUNG MAN, not exceeding Nineteen Years, as IMPROVER in the CUTTING-ROOM. This might suit the son of a master desiring experience and change. Board and lodging only will be given.

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TO ASSISTANT DRAPERS.—WANTED, IMMEDIATELY, a YOUNG MAN, in a Pleasant Seaport Town on the Coast of Hampshire. Age, Nineteen to Thirty. To one valuing the advantages of a religious Dissenting family, a desirable situation is open.

Apply, X. Y. Z., Mr. Baker's, Chemist, Emsworth, Hants.

TO WHOLESALE and RETAIL STATIONERS, BOOKSELLERS, PUBLISHERS, PRINTERS, &c.—WANTED, by a RESPECTABLE YOUNG MAN, whose term of Apprenticeship has recently expired, a SITUATION as ASSISTANT (in-doors would be preferred) either in a Wholesale or Retail Establishment, or where both are combined.

Address, S. B., care of Mr. G. Brooks, Advertiser, Office, Lewes, Sussex.

TO MILLERS AND MERCHANTS.—WANTED, by an active YOUTH, 17 years of age, a SITUATION for a term of three years, where a knowledge of Milling and general business habits would be acquired. A moderate Premium will be given.

Apply, A. B., Stowmarket, Suffolk.

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Apply by letter (in both cases), A. B., care of Messrs. Fownes Brothers, 41, Cheapside.

A RESPECTABLE YOUNG PERSON who has served her apprenticeship and term of Improvement to the MILLINERY, and is accustomed to a shop, wishes to meet with a SITUATION to WAIT in a MILLINER'S or DRAPER'S SHOP, where the Millinery Business is conducted. Respectable references can be given.

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Address, H. M. M., 83, Bryanston-square.

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Address, "Beta," Rev. D. Rees, Braintree.

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Conditions and first-class references forwarded on application.

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A GROOM, to live in the house; a quiet, comfortable situation; not high wages. A middle-aged man and a member of a Christian Church would be preferred.

Apply, by letter only, stating age and references, to D. N., at Mr. Bitton's, Post-office, Westminster-bridge-road, Lambeth.

BOARD and RESIDENCE, or Residence with partial Board, for a GENTLEMAN, in a highly-respectable, serious Family. The house, airy and commodious, within half a mile of the City.

Address, H. E., 10, Nelson-square, Blackfriars-road.

G. and T. ROWE, FURNISHING and GENERAL IRONMONGERS, Market-place, Ramsgate, have a VACANCY for a respectable and well-educated Youth as an APPRENTICE.

CRAUFURD HOUSE CLASSICAL, MATHEMATICAL, and CHEMICAL SCHOOL, MAIDENHEAD, BERKS.

Mr. PEARCE has pleasure in announcing that the increase of his Pupils has led to extensive alterations and enlargement in Craufurd House, combining every arrangement for convenience, comfort, and health. During nine years, medical attendance has been required once. The various branches of polite and useful learning are taught in the most approved, expedited, and effective methods. Discipline is maintained, and good habits are formed, by careful training and vigilant superintendence. The pupils speak French constantly; many as easily as English. German is spoken. There are Singing and Drawing Classes. A Band of Music is being formed. Science is taught experimentally. The younger pupils are under special and appropriate management.

The vigour, cheerfulness, and enthusiasm in cricket, gymnastics, swimming, daily rambles, and frequent excursions into the neighbouring county, attest the scope and encouragement afforded to the development of boyish feelings and physical strength.

The Terms are from 30*s.* to 40*s.* per annum. References of the highest respectability will be sent on application.

ANGLESEA HOUSE ACADEMY, ORPINGTON, KENT.—Christian parents, especially those of Dissenting principles, who desire a sound secular and religious Education for their Sons, will find the above-named Establishment worthy of their notice.

Circular, stating terms (which are moderate) and giving all necessary information, with numerous references to parents, will be sent on application to Mr. Askin, at the Academy; or to the Rev. R. Hamilton, St. Mary Cray, Kent.

HYDE PARK SCHOOL, HEADINGLEY, LEEDS.—The course of instruction includes the Latin, Greek, French, and German languages; Chemistry, Drawing, and Drilling, together with the usual branches of a good English education.

Quarters commence January 30th, April 10th, July 31st, and October 9th, 1855.

Terms may be had on application to the Rev. R. Brewer.

COMFORT and ECONOMY.—HAWKES' COMMERCIAL HOTEL, 7, BEAUFORT-BUILDINGS, opposite Exeter Hall, STRAND, London.

N.B.—Private rooms if required.

PORTLAND GRAMMAR SCHOOL, PLYMOUTH, conducted by Mr. R. F. WEYMOUTH, M.A. (of University College, London), M.R.A.S., &c., &c., assisted by well-qualified and experienced Masters.

The Course of Studies pursued at this Establishment is suitable as preparatory either for a College Course, or for Professional or Commercial Life.

The house is very healthily situated in the highest part of the town, and close to the northern outskirts, but at a convenient distance for sea-bathing.

Terms, from 35 to 45 guineas per annum.

EDUCATION for YOUNG LADIES, KING-STREET, LEICESTER.—THE MISSES MIAUL, whose school has been established for many years, continue to receive a limited number of Young Ladies for BOARD and EDUCATION. They will have VACANCIES for Pupils after the present Quarter. The best masters are engaged for French, German, Drawing, Music, Singing, and Deportment.

References: Rev. G. Legge, LL.D., Leicester; Rev. J. Sutcliffe, Manchester; W. Sunderland, Esq., Ashton-under-Lyne; Rev. J. G. Miall, Bradford; Rev. G. H. Miall, Ullenshore; and E. Miall, Esq., M.P., Sydenham-park, London.—Terms and full particulars on application. The ensuing quarter will commence on the 2nd of April.

TOTTENHAM LADIES' COLLEGE.—THE ELMS.—Under the general Superintendence of the MISSES WILSON.

Particulars, with an entire List of the Professors and Teachers, from which the following is extracted, may be had on application as above:—

The Bible and its Literature—Rev. W. H. Stowell, D.D., History and Mental Philosophy—Rev. John Hoppus, LL.D., F.R.S., Botany, Geology, and Natural History—Trevethan Spicer, LL.D., Latin, English, and the Mathematics—Mr. Orlando Balla. Pianoforte—Under the direction of Mons. Jules Benedict. Drawing—Mons. Poletier. Dancing and Calisthenics—Mons. Boileau.

Special arrangements are made for the preparatory training and accommodation of the Junior Pupils. The Term will commence April 10th.

SYDENHAM-PARK ESTABLISHMENT for YOUNG LADIES. Conducted by Miss SYKES.

The PUPILS receive the benefit of careful training, and a liberal education. Eminent Professors attend the School.

References permitted to the Rev. George Clayton, Rev. Thomas Binney, the Rev. John Stoughton, and to the parents of Pupils.

NATIONAL (late Cholera) ORPHAN HOME, HAM-COMMON. Instituted 1849.

At a PUBLIC MEETING, held at the Hanover-square Rooms, on Thursday last, it was resolved, "That application be made on behalf of the National Orphan Home to the Rector, Vicar, Incumbent, or Minister of Churches and Chapels in the Kingdom, requesting that the collection, or a portion of the collection, made on the approaching Fast-day, be kindly given to the National Orphan Home."

Nearly ninety orphan girls have been, and sixty are now, in the Home. Twenty were elected last November in consequence of the liberal collections made at churches and chapels in various parts of the kingdom on the day of thanksgiving for the harvest.

Clergymen kindly intending to send their collections on the approaching Fast-day, or any portion, will be furnished with all particulars on application to the Honorary Secretaries, the Rev. Joseph Brown, Rector of Christchurch, Blackfriars-road, and the Rev. R. Whittington, Chapter House, St. Paul's-churchyard, to whom Collections and Subscriptions may be forwarded; or, to Messrs. Dalton, Hatchards, Nisbets, Rivington, and Seeleys; also, to the account of the National Orphan Home, London and Westminster Bank, Lombury; and to the Treasurer, Henry Kingcote, Esq., No. 1, New-street, Spring-gardens.

APPRENTICESHIP SOCIETY.

The HALF-YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the Governors, Members, and Subscribers of this SOCIETY, will be held at the CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY, BLOMFIELD-STREET, FINSBURY-CIRCUS, on TUESDAY, MARCH 27th, 1855, when FOUR CANDIDATES will be elected to the benefit of the Institution.

By order of the Committee,

T. VALE MUMMERY, J. Hon. Secs.

W. WELLS KILPIN, J. Hon. Secs.

The Poll will commence at Eleven and close at Twelve o'clock precisely.

* Persons subscribing at the election may vote immediately.

ENGLISH HOMEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION. Founded in 1845.

The Members decided unanimously at the Annual Meeting (see *Nonconformist*, this day, p. 232), to petition Parliament to address the Queen to cause the troops in the Crimea to be supplied with Arnica; those friendly to this object can have ruled petition papers for signature, and a copy of the petition, by applying to Mr. JAMES EPPS, 112, Great Russell-street; 82, Old Broad-street, City; and Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly.

Subscriptions for aiding this object will be received at the same places, and by STEPHEN RENE BARDOULEAU, Esq., Hon. Secretary of the Association, 34, Rochester-road, Camden-town, to whom Post-office Orders may be made payable.

Subscriptions already received, 50*s.*

JOHN EPPS, M.D., Chairman.

B. R. BARDOULEAU, Hon. Sec.

Just published, price 6d.

THE GREAT CONTRAST; or, the Case in Life and Death: a Discourse delivered before the FREE CHURCH, COOPER'S-HALL, Bristol, on SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 11th, 1855, by H. N. BARRETT.

London: W. Freeman, 69, Fleet-street. Bristol: Evans and Arrowsmith, 39, Clare-street.

MEXICAN and SOUTH AMERICAN COMPANY.

NOTICE is hereby given that the BANKERS' RECEIPTS may be EXCHANGED for the NEW SHARES on and after MONDAY, the 19th inst. HYDE CLARKE, Secretary. 17, Gracechurch-street, March 16, 1855.

ACHILLES INSURANCE COMPANY, 25, CANNON STREET, LONDON.

19, PRINCES-STREET, MANCHESTER.

CAPITAL: £100,000, in 10,000 Shares of £10 each.

With power to increase to One Million.

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The advantages offered by this Company will be seen on an investigation of its Rates of Premium, which are based upon the latest and most approved corrected Tables of Mortality, and the terms of its Loan business. It offers to the Assured the security of a large subscribed Capital, combined with all the advantages of a Mutual Assurance Office—Eighty per Cent of the Profits being divided amongst the Policy-holders every five years.

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No CHARGES made for POLICE STAMPS or MEDICAL FEES. ONE THIRD of the Premiums on Assurances of £100 is allowed to remain unpaid, and counts as a claim on the Policy.

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LOANS are granted to Policy-holders on liberal terms. A Policy of the amount only of the sum borrowed, being as collateral security, required.

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Any other Particulars, or Rates of Premium required for any contingency, can be obtained of the Agents of the Company, or at the Chief Office, 25, Cannon-street, or of the Secretary.

HUGH BROWN TAPLIN, Secretary.

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Advanced Ad Mortgage £50,000.

This Society offers a secure and safe mode for the investment of large or small sums of money, the security for which is unquestionable, the funds being all advanced upon Freehold, Copyhold, or Leasehold Property.

SHARES.—A 10s. share may be paid by instalments in the same manner as deposits in Saving-banks; a 20s. share, by the payment of 4s. per month for 7½ years; a 30s. share, by the payment of 4s. per month for 10 years; a 40s. share, by the payment of 5s. per month for 12½ years, or of 10s. per month for 7½; a 100s. by the payment of 10s. per month for 12½ years, or of 20s. per month for 7½ years.

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Five per Cent. Compound Interest allowed upon the withdrawal of subscriptions, which can be done at a short notice.

Money lent to Shareholders upon the security of their shares.

Deposits received daily, and Interest from 4 to 5 per cent. per annum allowed. Only a short notice (usually a week) required for the withdrawal of Deposits.

This Society is adapted for the securing of Annuities, Endowments, and Apprenticeship Fees, particulars of which can be ascertained upon application.

In this Society there is no Personal Liability, and the whole of the Profits belong to the Shareholders.

Ministers and Teachers de-trust of promoting provident habits should form "Penny Banks" in connexion with their Congregations and Schools, and Invest the Money with this Society, which can be done at 5 per cent. Interest.

Money advanced for the Erection of Houses, Chapels, and Schoolrooms.

Shares may be taken, Prospectuses had, and information obtained at the Office of the Society between the hours of Nine and Five, and on Wednesdays from Nine to Eight; or a prospectus will be sent upon receipt of One Postage-stamp.

A fair remuneration allowed to persons acting as Agents of the Society.

JOHN EDWARD TRESIDDER, Secretary.

PROGRESS AT THE THIRD MEETING.

Shares issued, 710. Amount taken, £1,738.

INDEPENDENT BUILDING SOCIETY, AND BANK FOR DEPOSITS.

Interest Six per Cent.

Shares, £50. Entrance, 2s. 6d. Subscriptions, 5s.

The Independent and West London Dissenters' Building Society, so well-known and supported, have advanced upwards of £100,000. upon freehold, leasehold, and copyhold property. This Society, established under the same management, has no Ballot rule, allows 6 per cent. upon loan deposits, repayable at one month's notice; is fixed at ten years' duration; offers great facilities in the redemption of mortgages, and prompt and liberal advances. All shares taken can be withdrawn at any time with interest.

The principles of the Society have been tested by an eminent Lawyer, and proved to be perfectly sound.

£1,000. will be offered to competition at the FOURTH SUPPLEMENTATION MEETING, which will be held on TUESDAY, MARCH 25, at Seven o'clock, at WARDOUR-CHAPEL, 1, WARDOUR-STREET, SOHO.

The consequence of the success realised at the third meeting, will shortly close. Country Members will please make their payment to the Secretary at the London Office only.

Shares issued daily by the Secretary, Mr.

HOLCOMBE, 3, Oldham-place, Bagnigge-wells-road, near Exmouth-street.



LOANS, AT £5 PER CENT. PER ANNUM,

FROM £20 TO £1,000.

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THOMAS BOURNE, Resident and Managing Secretary.

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SOCIETY.

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Branch Office at Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Hamburg, and Paris.

Every description of Assurance effected upon equitable terms.

Eight-tenths of the profits divided amongst the assured.

Prospectuses to be had on application.

JESSE HOBSON, Secretary.

TESTIMONIAL to the REV. ARTHUR

TIDMAN, D.D.

TREASURER.

JOSEPH EAST, Esq., Abchurch-Jane.

SECRETARIES.

The Rev. THOMAS ARCHER, D.D., 18, Hans-place, Chelsea.

The Rev. HENRY ALLON, Canonbury-road, Islington.

The Rev. JOHN MORISON, D.D., LL.D., 27, Montpelier-square, Brompton.

COMMITTEE.

Sir Culling E. Eardley, Bart.; James Kershaw, Esq., M.P.;

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Wilson, Esq.; the Rev. James Sherman; Dr. J. H. Bennett; the

Rev. E. Manning; Eusebius Smith, Esq.; William Newton,

Esq.; and Edward Swaine, Esq.

The decision of the Arbitrator in the cases of "Davies v. Pratt,"

"Davies v. Tidman," and "Davies v. Reed and Pardon," having

been given in favour of the defendants, we feel ourselves called

upon to announce to the Christian public that it is in contemplation

to present to the Rev. Arthur Tidman, D.D., Foreign Secre-

tary of the London Missionary Society, a substantial sum of

affectionate and unabated confidence, on occasion of his complete

vindication from the unjust charges brought against him in the

faithful and upright discharge of his official trusts.

The manner in which the proposal of this Testimonial has been

responded to in all parts of the Kingdom has been peculiarly grati-

fying, both as it respects the regard expressed for Dr. Tidman,

and the generous contributions forwarded on his behalf.

Before, however, presenting to that gentleman the gifts of his

friends, it has been thought due to him and the public that an

opportunity should be afforded for all to contribute to the Testi-

monial which may feel disposed.

For this purpose, therefore, we beg to state that the Subscrip-

tion will remain open UNTIL the 10th APRIL, after which no

additional contributions can be received.

The Secretaries can offer no suggestion to their friends as to the

scale of contribution, as they have received Sums of all amounts,

from Five Shillings up to Twenty-five Pounds.

Donations may be sent in cheques or Post-office orders, before

the 10th April, to any of the Secretaries; to the Treasurer; and

to Messrs. Hankey, Bankers, Fenchurch-street.

On behalf of the Committee,

THOMAS ARCHER, HENRY ALLON, JOHN MORISON, Hou. Secs.

16th March, 1855.

N.B.—When the Testimonial is completed, every Subscriber

will be furnished with a List of Contributions.

SOLDIERS' INFANT HOME for the MAINTENANCE and EDUCATION of the CHILDREN of SOLDIERS, ORPHANS OR NOT.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

The Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop of York.

The Lord Bishop of London. The Lord Feversham.

The Lord Berners. The Lord Lifford.

The Hon. Arthur Kincaid, M.P.

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The Countess of Manners. The Lady Lifford.

The Countess Cathcart. Lady William Wyndham.

Dowager Lady Willoughby-le-Broke. The Hon. Mrs. Adams.

The Lady Leigh.

HONORARY SECRETARY.—The Rev. W. H. Foy, St. Simon's Par-

sonage, Bethnal-green (late Military Chaplain at Gwalior.)

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT.—Major the Hon.

H. L. Powys.

BANKERS.—Messrs. Masterman and Co.

OFFICE (pro. tem.) 9, WATERLOO-PLACE, PALL-MALL, LONDON.

The Committee most urgently appeal to the Clergy and Dis-

senting Ministers for their help on the Fast-day

THE

Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XV.—NEW SERIES, No. 490.]

LONDON: TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1855.

[PRICE 6d.]

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ment, as in ordinary times, treat with neglect the opinions and wishes of the majority of their supporters—neither can individual members afford to show indifference to the urgent applications of any considerable number of their own friends. It would seem as if Providence had prepared the way for the settlement of this question—had levelled the mountains, and exalted the plains, and thrown up a highway for truth and right to pass on to victory. It remains only for those who have harnessed themselves to the chariot of these principles, to seize the occasion, to avail themselves of the opening, and to take care that so noble a cause do not fail, in consequence of their pusillanimity or apathy. The opportunity is now theirs—and theirs will be the responsibility of failing to turn it to advantage.

It will not be necessary—it will hardly be expedient—for us to point out all the wires that may be pulled by earnest men, in their several localities, for the purpose of making known the feeling of the country to the Government and the House of Commons. It will be seen, from documents we have elsewhere inserted, that the Liberation Society is putting itself in communication with the friends of religious liberty throughout the kingdom. All useful methods of action will be suggested by Professor Foster, the active and judicious chairman of the Parliamentary Committee. Meanwhile, with a view to the economising of time, expense, and exertion, we venture to recommend the instant formation in every town and parish, wherever practicable, of a small committee, of from three to half-a-dozen gentlemen, who will undertake to see the work needing to be done, effectually done within their own districts. *They need not be members of the Liberation Society.* Their sole object will be the abolition of Church-rates—their sole work, to collect and bring to bear upon the Legislature the opinion of the locality to which they belong. Let such committees communicate to the Liberation Society, 2, Serjeant's-inn, Fleet-street, the fact of their existence, and the address to which instructions may be sent to them. We will answer for it that they will not have to wait long for a detailed exposition of the several modes in which they can be serviceable. They will not need to incur serious expense. Their work and responsibility will be over in three months at furthest—and, except in very large towns, the business to be done—if done *as business*—will probably not absorb, on an average, an hour a day. With zeal, punctuality, and despatch, three men thus united in purpose and employment, may, at no great cost either of time or money, accomplish wonders.

There may be places in which it will be found necessary to hold public meetings. But if we may presume to advise, we should say that, in *this* instance, they should be rather avoided than sought for. Our bark is never much regarded, for it has seldom, indeed, been followed by anything to be feared. Quiet, noiseless exertion is what we must rely upon—the whispers of individual earnestness, rather than the roar of popular excitement. The one object at which we should aim, is to influence, as far as may be, in the right direction, individual votes. We shall need to study how best these votes may be won—in what manner, by what persons, at what times facts, arguments, solicitations, remonstrances may be most judiciously and successfully presented. On all these points the committees we recommend may give, as well as receive, useful information. And this kind of work—which, after all, is most practical in its issue—can only be done, as it were, *sub rosa*—and is such as will admit of no ostentation. In short, we must set about this business as men who are anxious—not to distinguish *ourselves*—but to accomplish *it*.

Nearly twenty years have elapsed since an opportunity presented itself of abolishing the Church-rate system—an opportunity nearly as good, although not of the same nature, as that which now offers itself. Mr. Spring Rice's Bill passed its second reading by a small majority, and was subsequently abandoned. Had those whom it most nearly concerned displayed more activity and greater firmness, it is probable that we

should long since have seen the termination of the system. What has been the consequence? The question fell into abeyance, and not until quite lately could any promising movement be made for its settlement. Let us be warned by that example. Political wisdom consists, for the most part, in seizing the right moment for the accomplishment of right objects. In the region of politics, as in private life,

"There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Neglected, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries."

We will not dwell longer upon the present necessity for action in this matter, nor do our friends the injustice of supposing that they require more stimulus than the information we have given them. If success were not, in our view, so certain of being attained by a little extra exertion, we should not have written as we have done. But, apologising, if necessary, for our earnestness, and resolved, on our own part, to leave no stone unturned, we conclude as we began, by calling upon all whom it may interest for "action, action, action."

TOTAL ABOLITION OF CHURCH-RATES.

On this important subject, two circulars have been issued by the Liberation of Religion Society, bearing the signature of Dr. Foster, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee. They have no doubt come under the notice of many of our readers, but many of their statements deserve a more prominent notice. It appears, from these circulars, that not fewer than 792 petitions, with 93,528 signatures, were presented to the House of Commons in favour of the abolition of Church-rates during the last session. Sir W. Clay's Church-rate Bill, the first ever proposed which went the length of total abolition, was brought in by 129 to 62 votes, notwithstanding the opposition of Lord John Russell. The second reading was lost by 27 votes only, in a House, including pairs, of 449 members (noes 238, ayes 211)—a fact which is usually regarded as reducing success to a question of perseverance. On this occasion there were no less than 140 Liberals absent, many of whom abstained from voting simply on the ground that they wished to avoid embarrassing the Government. It is further to be added, that the second reading of Sir W. Clay's bill was supported by 65 members, from both sides of the House, who last year did not vote for his resolution, and some of whom voted against it. There is, besides, a reserve of about forty members who supported Sir W. Clay last year, but were absent from the second reading; and there is no dispute that further accessions are obtainable.

The following is a copy of Sir W. Clay's bill for the present session:—

A BILL TO ABOLISH CHURCH-RATES.

Note.—The words printed in *italics* are proposed to be inserted in Committee.

"Whereas Church-rates have for some years ceased to be made or collected in many parishes, by reason of the opposition thereto, and in many other parishes where Church-rates have been made the levying thereof has given rise to litigation and ill feeling: and whereas it is expedient that the power to make Church-rates shall be abolished: be it therefore enacted by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

"I. From and after the *passing of this Act*, no Church-rate shall be made or levied in any parish in England and Wales.

"II. Provided always, that in any parish where a sum of money has before the *passing of this Act* been legally borrowed under the provisions of any Act of Parliament on the security of Church-rates to be made and levied in such parish, such rates may still be made and levied under the provisions and for the purposes of such Act, but not otherwise, until such sum so borrowed shall have been liquidated.

"III. This Act shall not extend to Scotland or Ireland.

"IV. This Act may be cited as 'The Church-rate Abolition Act, 1855.'

In the second circular it is stated to be the opinion of the most competent judges that if the feeling already existing in both Houses of Parliament is well seconded out of doors, the bill may be expected to become law during the present session. To secure this

Ecclesiastical Affairs.

ACTION, ACTION, ACTION.

We summon our friends and supporters—we summon all whom our influence can reach—we summon every man who would dry up an ever-flowing source of religious and social discord, and would remove from the sacred name of Christianity a foul and undeserved reproach—to instant and energetic action. No time must be lost—no exertion must be spared. Indifference, at the present moment, will be equivalent to treachery—indolence will be tantamount to a base abandonment of principle. A good for which we have prayed and laboured for many years—a relief to ourselves—a boon to the country—a victory for religion, is within sight—aye, within reach, if we will now prove but true to our faith. The final and entire extinction of Church-rates has become a feasibility—a thing capable of accomplishment within the next two months. The sole condition we ask for the fulfilment of our best expectations, is prompt and vigorous action on the part of those who desire a favourable issue. If *they* will do their duty—if they will put their hands promptly and vigorously to the work before them, we are convinced they will receive their reward in a speedy and effectual triumph.

We speak not mere impressions produced by a vague and sanguine hope. We found our belief on tangible and solid reasons—although we are not in a position to make them public. We must beg our readers to assume that we are ourselves thoroughly convinced of the possibility of achieving this session the object above stated—the moral certainty of achieving it if due exertion be put forth. We showed in a former paper that Sir William Clay's bill, violently opposed as it was by Lord John Russell, and the Government of which he was a leading member, received the sanction of a majority of votes in the House of Commons. That bill has come under the consideration of the present Cabinet. We cannot, of course, state the result. All we can say is, that if Lord Palmerston's Government shall have determined to give Sir W. Clay their support, the determination will not be at variance with such indications as have recently come under our notice. In such case, we may reasonably look for some modifications of the bill—but none, we believe, that will affect the integrity of its principle. But, even if they shall have foolishly resolved upon opposing its introduction to, or progress through, the House—which, for their own sakes, we trust, they will not be found to have done—then we must put on sufficient pressure—as we can do if we will—to carry the bill in spite of them.

Many circumstances favour us just now—amongst them the probability of a not distant dissolution of Parliament. Lord Palmerston, as we intimated last week, is generally understood to have resolved upon an appeal to the constituencies, if seriously obstructed by the present House in his main policy—the vigorous prosecution of the war to an honourable and solid peace. But so chequered are the tidings which reach us week after week from abroad, and so uncertain is the temper of the House as affected by them, that no member can be sure from one month to another, that he will not be sent before its termination to seek a renewal of his trust from his constituents. Hence, neither can the Govern-

object the most effective means are petitions, public meetings, vestry contests, private communications with, or deputations to, representatives, and free use of the press. When possible, it is recommended to combine them.

PETITIONS.—I enclose, with the necessary formal instructions, forms of Petition to *both* Houses, suited to different circumstances. It is hoped, however, that they will be used as much as possible as suggestions only, and that Petitioners will everywhere adapt them freely to the facts of their own experience. "Almost every petition," says the *Eclectic Review* of last January, "which is not a form, *i.e.*, which has anything distinctive in its statement is printed and circulated, and to a considerable extent *read* among the members generally. So much is this the case, that their value would at least be doubled by the insertion of statements respecting the condition of matters in the locality from which they are sent up. Accounts of recent contests, or the fact that there are no such things as rates in the parish; how the Church has been maintained in repair, and how long it has been so, will go far to insure Sir W. Clay's majority on the second reading of his bill."

Last session, while the signatures were not far short of 100,000, the petitions were under 800. This number can undoubtedly be largely increased. Many borough councils, the Dissenting congregations in each place separately, the inhabitants generally, and with evident propriety the vestries and inhabitants of parishes or districts separately rated, should all send petitions, to testify by the combination the universality of public feeling. Petitioners belonging to more than one class are considered entitled to sign separate petitions for each class to which they belong.

It is further suggested, for economising trouble, that petitioners should sign in duplicate, one for the Lords and one for the Commons. It is also strongly recommended that, in the absence of special reason to the contrary, petitions to the Commons should be forwarded for presentation by the borough or county member, *irrespective of his political sentiments*, and that petitions to the Lords should be entrusted to peers connected with the locality.

VESTRY CONTESTS.—The battle of church-rates must be fought mainly in the parish vestry; and, after Mr. Gladstone's suggestion of last year, the committee feel that they can risk nothing in public estimation, by recommending the renewal and extension of these contests, throughout this movement, whether they be likely to be successful or not. It is now declared law, that church-rates are no more the legal mode of repairing the parish church than is a voluntary subscription; and the experience of nearly 100 cases brought under the cognisance of the committee justifies and requires the declaration, that contests are necessary to uphold the law against violation by the pro-rate party. In order to their most effective prosecution, the Committee recommend:

1. Vigilant examination of the last year's accounts, and refusal (even to a poll) to allow items unauthorised or improper.

2. Nomination of anti-rate churchwardens for the ensuing year.

3. Refusal of obnoxious items in this year's estimates. These it will be almost always wise (if necessary) to carry to a poll.

4. Offer of a voluntary subscription and positive refusal of a rate, even to a poll and scrutiny. N.B. Every case of opposition to a rate, however unsuccessful locally, tells with the Legislature.

On this subject, the Committee invite attention to a forthcoming practical legal work on church-rates, by Alfred Wills, Esq., Barrister-at-law, for the publication of which, in time for the Easter vestries, they have made the necessary arrangements. The Committee anticipate that this work, together with a new issue of tracts and placards which they have in preparation, will greatly facilitate the effective conduct of vestry contests.

It is suggested that petitions to *both* Houses should at once be got ready and forwarded; and the public activity in other respects should be ready as soon as called for.

The legal work in question will, we understand, be sent, post free, for 3s. 6d. We will give one or two forms of petitions in our next Number.

THE DAY OF HUMILIATION.

(From the *Examiner*.)

... There are some to whom daily labour is daily bread, and to whom a command to be idle is, indeed, a command to fast. This seems hard. If Ministers, or even if a member of Parliament, were to be mulcted a day's pay, the inconvenience would not be great—the injustice perhaps still less. But these sheep—what have they done? Their part was to pay taxes, and they have paid them; was to send forth soldiers, and they have sent them. Their work, one would say, has not been done ill or grudgingly. A severe winter has combined with the war to increase suffering; an unusually long frost has combined with a dull trade to diminish employment, and so multiply hardship; and what religion is that which, when all this has been so patiently and bravely borne, steps in and says—*"Humble yourselves; give up another day's work, another day's shopkeeping, another day's wages, another day's profits;* for this will be pleasing in the sight of Heaven, this will prove that the nation is lowly and penitent, this will perhaps avert some misfortune, perhaps win some favour for us—even the taking of Sebastopol?"

What religion, we repeat, is this that presses thus hardly on the poor, while it makes dull the conscience of the rich? A day of humiliation! Surely we are already sorely humbled. What summons will stir us in such depths of shame as the letters from the Crimea. The lines at Sebastopol—the harbour of Balaklava—the graves of Scutari—a military system tried and found wanting, a military reputation jeopardised in the sight of Europe, a national prestige departing from us—if the thought of these things do not humble us, would a whole month of fast-days avail to do it? A year ago we fasted and prayed by precedent; we went to church; we heard sermons; but we came away, and went on as usual writing, and reading, and talking of our

glorious army, our unequalled fleets, and the magnificent spectacle which we presented to the nations. Alas! if the Privy Council Day of Humiliation could not keep us from boasting then, who will say that it is wanted to make us humble now?

A day of Prayer—it is a solemn phrase, not to be spoken of irreverently; but of all things reverence is most opposed to cant. We have starved an army—therefore let us fast; we have found our vaunted system worthless—therefore let us humble ourselves; we have taken all measures to insure disaster, and disaster has attended our efforts—therefore let us pray! But it is not reverence to be cowardly, and it is not piety to be superstitious. *Laboreare est orare.* The gods help those who help themselves; but never did the gods lend a pitying ear to those who in the hour of peril, when the ship was drifting towards breakers, left the ropes and betook themselves to easy prayers. Our Puritan ancestors fought with sword in one hand and Bible in the other; but the Bible was not in the wrong hand. The Great Apostle did not desire the sailors of a disabled ship to fast, but to eat; nor was it till those resources of precaution had been taken which eventually saved the vessel, that he deemed it seemly or pious to call upon the ship's company to pray.

(From *Household Words*.)

If the directors of any great joint-stock commercial undertaking—say a railway company—were to get themselves made directors principally in virtue of some blind superstition declaring every man of the name of Bolter to be a man of business, every man of the name of Jolter to be a mathematician, and every man of the name of Polter to possess a minute acquaintance with the construction of locomotive steam-engines; and if these ignorant directors so managed the affairs of the body corporate as that the trains never started at the right times, began at the right beginnings, or got to their right ends, but always devoted their steam to bringing themselves into violent collision with one another; and if by such means these incapable directors destroyed thousands of lives, wasted millions of money, and hopelessly bewildered and conglomeration themselves and everybody else; what would the shareholding body say if those brazen-faced directors called them together in the midst of the wreck and ruin they had made, and with an audacious piety addressed them thus:—"Lo, ye miserable sinners, the hand of Providence is heavy on you! Attire yourselves in sack-cloth, throw ashes on your heads, fast, and hear us condescend to make discourses to you on the wrong you have done?"

Or, if Mr. Matthew Marshall, of the Bank of England, were to be superseded by Bolter; if the whole Bank Parlour were to be cleared for Jolter; and the engraving of bank notes were to be given as a snug thing to Polter; and if Bolter, Jolter, and Polter, with a short pull and a weak pull and a pull no two of them together, should tear the Money-Market to pieces, and rend the whole mercantile system and credit of the country to shreds; what kind of reception would Bolter, Jolter, and Polter get from Baring Brothers, Rothschilds, and Lombard-street in general, if those Incapables should cry out, "Providence has brought you all to the *Gazette*. Listen, wicked ones, and we will give you an improving lecture on the death of the Old Lady in Threadneedle-street!"

Or, if the servants in a rich man's household were to distribute their duties exactly as the fancy took them; if the housemaid were to undertake the kennel of hounds, and the dairymaid were to mount the coachbox, and the cook were to pounce upon the secretaryship, and the groom were to dress the dinner, and the gamekeeper were to make the beds, while the gardener gave the young ladies lessons on the piano, and the stable-helper took the baby out for an airing; would the rich man, soon very poor, be much improved in his mind when the whole incompetent establishment, surrounding him, exclaimed, "You have brought yourself to a pretty pass, Sir! You had better see what fasting and humiliation will do to get you out of this. We will trouble you to pay us, keep us, an try?"

CHURCH-RATES AT TUNBRIDGE.—At a vestry meeting, on Saturday, a church-rate was carried in the town by thirty-four against thirty-two. The opponents of the rate demanded a poll, which takes place this day (Tuesday).

ARCHDEACON DENISON.—An influential deputation from the Church Protestant Defence Society, headed by Sir Brook Bridges, waited on the Archbishop of Canterbury, in consequence of the report in the public papers, that his Grace had intimated a determination not to authorise any further proceedings in the case of Archdeacon Denison, when it appeared that the matter was still under the consideration of his Grace's legal advisers.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY AND THE DISSENTERS.—The statute on "oaths and tests," to be taken by future members of the university upon matriculation and on admission to the B.A. degree, and which had been promulgated on the 3rd instant, was proposed on Tuesday, in a congregation holden at two o'clock for acceptance or rejection, in conformity with clause xvii. of the Oxford University Act. The statute was proposed for vote in ten different portions, all of which were carried. Clauses 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, passed without a division. Clauses 1, 6, 7, 8, were divided upon, but were carried with large majorities, the divisions being, on

	Placet.	Non-placet.
No. 1	71	4
6	68	26
7	61	37
8	64	21

We have already given our readers this statute *verbatim*. Its chief bearing is on the admission, examination, and graduation of nonconformists, who can now be admitted

without any religious test whatever, and can be examined without taking up any theological work, and can proceed to the B.A. degree without taking or subscribing to any civil or religious oath or test.—*Morning Herald*,

BURIAL BOARD AT CHRISTCHURCH.—At a vestry meeting held last Tuesday, resolutions were proposed, and carried unanimously, that burial grounds be at once provided pursuant to the provisions of the statute, and that nine persons be appointed the Burial Board. The next question was, who should constitute this Board, and upon this subject a very irregular discussion took place. The point mainly in dispute was as to the relative proportion which the representatives of the Church and Dissenting interests should bear to each other upon the Board. The Church party proposed that they should have six out of the nine, while the Dissenters contended, upon very just grounds, that the proportion should be five to four. The latter ultimately carried their point.—*Hants Independent*.

CHURCH-RATES—ST. GEORGE'S, CAMBERWELL.—At a vestry of the district parish of St. George, Camberwell, held on Thursday evening last, a proposition was made, "that a rate of twopence in the pound be granted the churchwardens for the current year," whereupon an amendment was moved by Mr. Paine, "that no rate be now made." Notwithstanding there are about 2,000 ratepayers in the parish, only 152 recorded their votes; the state of the poll at its close being—For the rate, 155; against it, 38; majority in favour of the rate, 117; the apparent discrepancy in the numbers being accounted for by some persons possessing a plurality of votes. The majority was composed almost entirely of frequenters of the district church paying pew-rates; and the material result to them is a bonus in the shape of upwards of 300*l.*, thus preventing an appeal to their own pockets for that amount, an object to them certainly worth striving for; whilst the consistent advocates of the voluntary principle cannot but feel surprise at the conduct of some of their professed friends.—*From a Correspondent*.

Religious Intelligence.

RETIREMENT OF DR. KING.—The Rev. Dr. King, in consequence of bad health, has felt called on to retire from the pastoral duties of Greyfriars' Church, Glasgow.

SHEFFIELD.—The Congregational Church assembling in Garden-street chapel, Sheffield, having given a cordial and unanimous invitation to the Rev. F. H. Rustedt, of Thorne, to become their pastor, he purposes entering upon his new sphere of usefulness the first Sabbath in April.

RE-OPENING OF BISHOPSGATE CHAPEL.—On Wednesday in last week, Bishopsgate Chapel, which has been completely repaired and beautified, was reopened for public worship, the Church meeting there having been united to that many years worshipping at Holywell Mount, Shoreditch, under the pastorate of the Rev. Edward Manner. The services were commenced with devotional exercises, conducted by Mr. Manner and by the Rev. Henry Townley, the first minister of the chapel, and formerly of White's-row. The Rev. Thomas Binney, of the Weigh House, then delivered a sermon upon "The peace of God which passeth all understanding." The Rev. J. Spence, A.M., offered up the concluding prayer, and pronounced the benediction. The evening service commenced at seven o'clock, by the Rev. J. C. Galloway A.M., the last pastor, reading another portion of the Holy Scriptures, and offering prayer, after which a discourse was preached by the Rev. J. Newman Hall, B.A., of Surrey Chapel. The Rev. Clement Dukes, A.M., of Dalston, offered up the concluding prayer, and gave the blessing. Several appropriate hymns were sung during both services, accompanied by the organ. The attendance on both occasions was considerable. During the interval of worship, a numerous party of ministers, the deacons of the United Churches, ladies, and gentlemen, partook of a cold collation in the school-room. Mr. Manner presided, supported by Mr. Binney and Mr. Bateman; several speeches were made, all expressive of the good feeling existing between the pastor and the United Church. The Rev. Messrs. Burnett, Townley, Galloway, and Smith, took part in the proceedings.

SAILORS' INSTITUTE.—The British and Foreign Sailors' Society have resolved to erect, in the East of London, at the cost of between three and four thousand pounds, a Sailors' Institute. The proposed buildings will comprise a Public Hall, where lectures on science, temperance, and topics of general interest may be delivered on week-days, and Divine service conducted on Sundays; Class-rooms for instruction in Navigation and the simpler branches of education, as well as for a Sunday-school; a Library and Reading-room, to be supplied with newspapers and periodicals, and to be always open for the use of seamen; and a Savings'-bank for the encouragement of habits of economy and investment. A subscription list has been opened, and about 500*l.* have been obtained. This, however, is but one-fourth of the sum which will be required by the directors to enable them to commence the building.

THE SOLDIERS' FRIEND AND ARMY SCRIPTURE-READERS' SOCIETY.—The Rev. A. Levi writes to the committee of this Society, under date of Constantinople, Feb. 5, as follows: "The French have a dozen hospitals dispersed in and about Constantinople. The number of Protestants is not great, but they are to be found in each hospital, and almost in each ward, so that it takes a great deal of time to visit a few individuals. The week before last, two French Protestant ministers arrived, in connexion with a society formed in Paris, and with the authority of the Government to labour among their Protestant brethren. I heard yesterday

that a third is come, but, like one of the other two, he does not speak German, but only French, and the German is more necessary than the French language. Most of the French Protestants speak only German, being from Alax, and there are in the Foreign Legion Protestants from every part of Germany. You cannot conceive how delighted these are to hear themselves addressed in the German language. We give the German Testaments (supplied by the 'Bible Society's' agents here,) and Tracts. The Rev. M. Rörer, speaking German also, will visit by himself, and I am attached to the Rev. M. Frossart, who cannot speak German. Last Thursday, for instance, we all three visited two hospitals which lie close to each other; Mr. R. taking one part by himself, and Mr. F. with myself another part. On Friday they both had to go to visit the naval hospital, at Bayadère, and I went to Rami Tehiptic hospital. The sick express themselves most grateful for our attention to, and interest in them."

THE FAST DAY.

The following correspondence has taken place between some gentlemen at Coventry and the Right Hon. E. Ellice, M.P. for that city:—

(Copy.)

Coventry, May 2, 1854.

Dear Sir,—We, the undersigned Dissenting ministers of Coventry, shall be much obliged if you will take charge of the enclosed draft for 44/- 13s. 10d., being the amount raised by our congregations for the relief of the wives and children of the soldiers who are engaged in the Eastern struggle. Believing that you know in whose hands the money will be most available for the purpose intended, we venture to ask you to be so kind as to put it in the right channel. The sum enclosed would have been much larger than it is, but for the unhappy wording of the Proclamation which set apart last Wednesday as a day of humiliation and prayer. The Queen's command was enforced under pain of the wrath of Almighty God, and, although the expression may have been in harmony with a by-gone age, it appears to us ill adapted to present circumstances. We venture to express our desire that the exercise of authority on such occasions were restricted to civil arrangements.

The voice of command is doubtless in accordance with an Established Church of which the sovereign is the head; but in these times, when, according to the census of religious worship of 1851, there is scarcely any numerical difference between the Established Church and the Nonconformists, we conceive that an alteration both of substance and style in similar proclamations, would be advantageous and graceful.

So large and loyal a portion of the community as the Dissenting body ought not to be ignored. Our circumstances on Wednesday last illustrate the difficulty in which royal commands on such occasions invariably place us. We feel the deepest anxiety in the Eastern question, and for some time past have made it a constant subject of prayer in our public services, and the setting apart a day for this purpose was entirely in harmony with our views; but in the judgment of many it was impossible to observe the day without recognising the Queen's authority in matters of religion, and in other ways committing ourselves to principles which we disavow. Our chapels were, therefore, opened under protest. In some there was only one service, and through the day our congregation were disturbed and scattered, instead of gathering in their full strength and with their whole heart. If you would further our views by the exertion of your powerful influence in any way you think proper, we should feel thankful for your valuable help.

Trusting that you will excuse the trouble we are occasioning you, and the freedom with which we have addressed you, we remain yours faithfully,

JOHN SIBREE,
E. H. DELF,
W. T. ROSEVEAR,
R. G. WILNAUM.

Right Hon. E. Ellice.

To this letter the following reply was received:—

(Copy.)

Arlington-street, May 4, 1854.

My dear Sir,—I have to acknowledge the receipt, this morning, of your letter of the 2nd inst., enclosing a draft for 44/- 13s. 10d., the amount of collection from different Dissenting congregations in Coventry, in aid of the fund raising for the relief of the wives and families of soldiers engaged in hostilities now carrying on in the East.

I beg you will assure the gentlemen who have entrusted me with this subscription, that I accept their commission with great pleasure, and I will inform them hereafter of the manner in which it has been disposed of. I agree cordially and entirely with them also in their observations on the wording of the Proclamation, and will endeavour to impress their opinions and views on the subject in the proper quarter. I cannot but believe they will be considered with respect and attention by the present head of the Church of England. I am certain they ought to be by Her Majesty's Government.

Yours very faithfully,

EDWARD ELICE.

In the course of the week before last, the Rev. E. H. Delf wrote to the Right Hon. E. Ellice, to express the disappointment which was felt by many at the appearance of the same Proclamation without any alteration in spirit or form, setting apart the 21st inst. as a day of humiliation and fasting. The following answer was received:—

(Copy.)

London, March 10, 1855.

My dear Sir,—I sincerely regret, with you, the reappearance of the old Proclamation of the Fast. I did not expect it, after the representations we made on the last occasion; and I feel satisfied, if it had occurred during Lord Aberdeen's Government, that he would have recollected his assurance to me, that he would give due weight and consideration to the objections stated by us, if he should have occasion to advise another Proclamation during his Administration. But I must add, that we are somewhat to blame ourselves, for not having urged these objections to the present Government, after notice had been given to proclaim another Fast, and before the issue of the late Proclamation. These matters are regulated by precedent, and unless the attention of the existing authorities is called to them at the moment, the old

form is adopted, as a matter of course, and not from any desire to persist in it, against the opinions and feelings of large classes of the community.

You should take advantage of the present occasion to concert measures with your friends in England and Scotland, who sympathise in your objections to the "commands" in the Proclamation, to make a combined representation to the Government, and to place it on record, so that attention may be paid to it, and, under whatever circumstances another solemn appeal may be made by Her Majesty to her subjects of a similar description, I am sure that Lord Palmerston would be very willing to listen to such a representation, and, I should hope, to acquiesce in its reasonable prayer, inasmuch as everybody must be satisfied that the objects sought to be secured on these solemn occasions would be essentially promoted by removing every form and expression from the Proclamation which could interfere with the cordial concurrence and co-operation of persons of all religious opinions and persuasions, in general prayer and thanksgiving, and works of charity and beneficence.

Yours most sincerely,
The Rev. E. H. Delf. EDWARD ELICE.

Correspondence.

REPRESENTATION OF WALES.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—Mr. Joseph Drew's arguments on this subject are in the main correct, and it is a singular coincidence that his letter and my own should have appeared in the same copy of your paper; taken together, they give a pretty fair idea of the state of things in the Principality, and may help to explain to your general readers the anomaly so often spoken of, viz.—That Dissenting Wales should be represented exclusively by Churchmen. There are, however, one or two remarks in Mr. Drew's letter with which I do not quite agree: the *territorial power* in towns, and the difficulty of finding fit men among Dissenters to represent borough constituencies. It is true that you will find a very powerful landlord interest to contend with in the borough towns in Wales, but not more so than in many small boroughs in England where Liberal members are carried in the teeth of all such influences—it is not an overwhelming influence, and perfectly assailable, and although threats may be used, I do not believe that the landlords would dare to carry their threats into practice. We are too apt to conclude that they would do so, but we conclude without evidence, for until Welsh boroughs are contested on Dissenting principles, and Dissenting voters have the opportunity of declaring themselves at the poll, how can we possibly tell what might be the result upon their interests in *this respect*. No doubt that in elections between "Lord Tom Noddy" (Tory) and "Sir Humphrey Noodle" (Whig)—the gentlemen alluded to by Mr. Drew—very strong landlord influence would be brought to bear upon tenants, because the contest is not one for principles *but houses*—the house of Noddy has for generations been opposed to that of Noodle, and the political differences are really so very trivial that the tenant, if he must vote at all, does not care very much which side he takes so that his landlord is satisfied. He argues thus: "Lord Tom Noddy will vote for the Church of his fathers—for the glorious constitution of his mothers—for the army and navy, where provision is made for Lord John Noddy and Lord James Noddy, his brothers—against Free Trade and all innovation; and when Lord Tom has said that, he is a good harmless fellow and will do you no sort of harm if you don't disturb his game. Well! Sir Humphrey Noodle is a friend to civil and religious liberty all over the world, but he won't vote for the abolition of Church-rates—he cannot pledge himself to support the ballot—he will consider all measures introduced to the notice of Parliament before deciding upon their merits—he has great confidence in Lord John Russell—thinks the army and navy are the bulwarks of our country—should have voted for free-trade (now it's carried), and believes, in his conscience, that the game-laws are not repugnant to reason." The honest Welshman, after thus reasoning, cannot see much difference between Noddy and Noodle, and cares very little which is carried. The election takes place and is over—the two great families have compromised matters! Noddy will sit for this Parliament; Noodle is to walk over at the next election! A good, sound Dissenter in the borough won't pay his Church-rate; he is brought before the magistrates and finds Noddy and Noodle on the bench. He tells his plain, unvarnished tale—he cannot pay the rate, for 'tis a matter of conscience with him: but Noddy is a Churchman, and so was his father—the rate must be paid! What of Whig Noodle—civil and religious liberty Noodle?—the rate has been legally made in open vestry, the law must be respected, and the rate must be paid. A poor unfortunate non-elector is brought up at the same time for trapping game: he was in want—had been out of work for weeks—his family starving—he did not like to go the parish! but Noddy and Noodle could not see the force of all this. What had this to do with trapping game?—that was the offence clearly proved, and Tory Noddy agrees with Whig Noodle that the poor fellow must be committed. A third case: Noddy and Noodle are *ex officio* guardians of the poor; they sit in solemn conclave one day at the board-room, when a fine young man, bowed down with sorrow, is ushered into the room. He has lost his child, but being out of work for a considerable time, he cannot afford to give his lost darling a decent burial, and reluctantly seeks parish aid to pay the last tribute of respect to the remains of his dear one. The ordinary guardians are touched with pity, and would fain give way, but this was the man who trapped the game! Noddy and Noodle knew him at once, and agreed forthwith that this was no case for relief! the two houses had decided! and the sorrowing man might bury his dead as best he might! Now I want to know what is the difference in the *principles* of these men that should induce any voter to ruffle a straw, much less a landlord, on their account; and if this is no overdrawn picture of things as they are, surely there is no great occasion for wonder that the house of Noddy can and does upset that of Noodle by *landlord influence*, failing in other ways to do so—that Noddy and Noodle sell the constituency without a pang—and that Noddies and Noodles in the borough are delighted beyond measure that they have been sold, seeing that matters will now proceed in peace, harmony, and good fellowship! But, Sir, to the disgust of Noddy and Noodle, there are third parties in every borough who don't understand such bargains as these;

they may be few in number, unimportant, in a sense, too, but these men have a principle at stake which cannot be trifled with. Shall Lord Tom Noddy and Sir Humphrey Noodle dictate to these men the terms upon which they are to serve and worship their Maker? Are the tender consciences of Dissenters for ever to remain at the mercy, and subject to, the dictation of Noddy and Noodle? I for one say nay! and am prepared to try the issue between the principles involved in the questions just put. Welsh Dissenters dare to be Dissenters—let them dare to be freemen. No landlord among all the Noddies and Noodles in the Principality would dare to turn a man out of his house and home because he was a Dissenter; and I venture to predict that they dare not do this with a man who has the honesty, before his Maker and his fellows, to vote for his principles. Doubtless they would talk big—a Welshman can do so, particularly if he comes in a direct line from Noah's ark, and is possessed of a manor, though mortgaged twenty-five per cent. beyond its value, as many a mighty Noddy and a few simple Noodles among us know full well—but surely we need not fear the bark of a dog that dare not bite—that cannot bite if he dared, for he has no teeth—that may be killed if he tries to bite—that will be beaten if he shows his toothless jaws even! Let us not, therefore, fear this bugbear, but meet the sprite valiantly, and put the thing to flight. *The influences we have most to fear are those within our own household*—Dissenters must be true to their principles, and the treachery of one may prove the downfall of many. And now, as to the difficulty of meeting with proper representatives from among the Dissenting community. I don't quite see this—the man will be found on the emergency. I will only refer to one case, that of Mr. Richard Davies, of Menai Bridge (my friend will pardon me for this reference). In the ordinary course of things, he might not have been hit upon as suited for senatorial honours; his habits, associations, and pursuits are not altogether of the kind which you look for in a representative; but those who know him well, will, I am sure, bear me out in saying that after a very short probation in the House of Commons, he would, by his business habits, force of character, natural ability, and manly conduct, put to shame your Lord Tom Noddies, and a host of your more flashing candidates of the long robe (saving my own presence, which of course we must except). Does Mr. Drew mean to say that there are not many such among the sons of Cambria, who have the means, ability, ambition, and readiness, to serve their country in that way? It is, I grant, some sort of misfortune for Wales that when her sons become well off in the world they forget their parentage, language, and religion (save the mark); let us have a little money, or money's worth, about us, we are Noah's Arkites forthwith—have no birthplace, save those we boast of, until relations come in by our back-doors and remind us of early days; and we strut with dignified and measured steps to the church of other people's fathers, concluding in our own dear souls that we are somebody, but how many a person has blushed up to the ears when looking at our "Reformers" from the desk (for you should know that persons don't "read" in the desk, they *recite* the prayers, looking up and down the church the while at our "dearly-beloved" coming in) at us walking up the aisle to the square pew which did of old belong to Squire Jolly, who ate and drank the property of which it was the representative in church, to the pockets and strong-box of our friend Gulp All, *Esquire* (the modern way of doing things), the present occupant. The modern and money-stamp rests upon our new *Esquires*; he uses more "h's" in conversation than would fill a compact prayer-book—his *Lady* leans upon him for support in a way that tells the person but too plainly where she came from—so different from Squire Jolly and his charming *Dame*. I say the person blushes (and laughs too, when he puts his head down and hides his face in the surprise), looking at the picture before him, and thinks to himself, as he recites to others, "Well, here's a pretty patron to bow and scrape to;" but our friend the *Esquire* thinks but of himself, and concludes that, now he is a Churchman and sitting in the square pew, he must be a gentleman forsooth! Why, Sir, that man would be fit for any Parliament, from our own in St. Stephen's, to the more noisy one in the *CAPITAL* over the water. *Gentlemen* of old families, and respectable people, would vote for that man, and be proud to call him their friend, although many of them would spit upon him and his pride if they dared. To my mind, Mr. Richard Davies, who is humble and honourable enough to go to the little Methodist conventicle, near the Menai-bridge, Sunday by Sunday, is worth ten score such *Esquires* as the one alluded to (a true case), and deserves at our hands, as Welshmen and Dissenters, far greater honour than could ever be paid to the other, though decked out in ermine and gold. However, if we cannot be content to make the most of what we have on principle, let us do so for the present from policy; only make two or three Welsh Dissenters into senators, and you will find, are long, men with wigs and men with swords, men with land and men with money, leaving old Mother Church, and coming back to the conventicle from which they had before fled. What must this end in? I leave Mr. Joseph Drew to tell. I am content to take my stand on the men we have.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
E. G. SALISBURY.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to thank you for inserting my former letter to express my sense of gratitude to Messrs. Drew and Salisbury for having so boldly commented on the above question and to offer some further remarks tending, I trust, to advance the interest of the electoral reform in the Principality.

I hope that my thus trespassing on your valuable space will not be improper in your estimation, for it is my conviction that if there had been more debating, lecturing, and writing on the subjects in question, affairs would exhibit quite a different aspect in Wales at present, and that the most certain means to effect a thorough change in the representative system of the country is to stimulate and prepare the minds of my countrymen, the Welsh, by general election, by holding public meetings, and discussing the matter through the medium of the press. Mr. Drew will excuse my saying that I don't exactly coincide with the following sentence of his—if I rightly understand its meaning—"The one cure for this is the extension of education." Taking the mass of the two nations in both town and country, it does not appear to me that the train of tuition received by their respective electors does vary to a very considerable extent, neither does it seem that they differ much in their

scientific and political knowledge. To ascertain these matters I took a tour, not long since, having been prompted to do this chiefly by the issue of the "Blue Books" on the educational constitution of Wales, through some parts of England. The result produced this conviction. The Welsh can talk, read, and write in their own language; and those brought up in towns and the principal villages are able to speak English fluently, and most of them, I dare say, can write in it tolerably correct. I did not find this exceeded much by the English people. Here we have literary institutions in the towns, reading-rooms in the principal villages, and have our Sunday and daily schools spread all over the land. What more have you there? In Wales I hear people converse on the arts and sciences, political movements, and about "Nicholas," and the "great Russian war." Such things I found to be of interest in England last summer. Why, I see no difference between the two nations, except that one speaks the Welsh chiefly, and the other the English language entirely. It is true that the English nation is the ruling party, having all matters of law and commerce, &c., translated in the vernacular tongue. The case is otherwise in Wales, which renders that nation more wealthy, influential, and powerful. But this does not prove that the mass of the population is more advanced in point of intellect and education. It is said of the Russian nation, that the mass is far behind that of other nations of Europe as regards civilisation, but that the nobles are as far advanced, if not superior to those of other civilised people. The literary men of England are seventeen times, if not more numerous, than those of Wales, because the population of the former is that much larger than that of the latter. I readily admit that the English literati excel those of Cambria, but do not hesitate to state, that the relation between the bulk of the two nations bears a contrary character to that which exists between the body of the Russians and that of other nations.

Now, let not the friends of liberty think for a moment that I notice these matters from what is called a patriotic feeling, speaking in higher terms of my countrymen than I should. No; this must be out of the question; we have a common interest in view, Sir. My object is to efface the general impression in England, and even in Wales, that the Welsh people are merely a nation of dupes in all matters except theology—to show that we are not to establish schools, train up another generation, and wait for a future race of electors, ere effecting the proposed reform. Yea, I do it to facilitate the way to show the main "cause" why the Welsh Dissenters are represented by such a host of brainless and talentless Tories. There is no hindrance in point of education: all is well in that quarter. The fact is, the means are at hand only to use them. I fully admit that obstacles present themselves, but they are neither insurmountable nor does the "cause" we search for remain with them; to speak plainly, it rests principally in the carelessness and the inattention of the Dissenting friends to this pressing duty. There are some who feel this, but there are more who do not. Could we have the Welsh once to feel it their duty to study politics, not for curiosity, but in connexion with religion, to believe honestly that they have something in that direction to do to advance religious and political liberty; and could we have them to stir themselves up so much with this subject, as they do in promoting Welsh literature, depend upon it the fate of these "Tories" would be soon settled, and the despotism of the Welsh "gentry" would be at once crushed by the power of our principles. I must be excused too by the English friends if I say that their hands are not quite clean in this affair. There is some foolish mutual feeling of dis respect existing between the two nations. The one despises the other, like the Greeks of old did despise the surrounding nations as barbarians. Too much of this feeling has been elicited in the religious community. The Dissenting friends in England appeared to have been unconscious of the number and power of their brethren in Wales, until they read Mr. Mann's "Census." The Welsh Nonconformists seeing themselves disregarded, and their services not sought for, sat down in peace, and left their comrades single handed to struggle for the common interest, believing, perhaps, that they were not destined to contend for the rights of mankind. I believe that there is more truth in this than may at first appear.

To arouse the Welsh from this lethargy, they don't want so much of the education of their English co-religionists as they do of their method of working their energy and their encouragement. Had the English Dissenters gained so much superiority in number in their land as the Welsh have obtained in theirs, through their energy and method of working, the Church-rate and the Church and State questions would have been settled long ago.

Wherein lay the difference then. Not so much in point of education, I say, as in the plan of procedure. You have formed societies, gentlemen, to back religious and political liberty, to which are attached committees to look out for subscriptions, to care for their pecuniary affairs, to hold correspondence, and send out eloquent lecturers to the towns and villages to discuss and spread their principles. Why this is the very thing we want in Wales. Give us your advice and assistance, gentlemen, and don't disregard us.

Some say that there are none to be had amongst us possessing the requisite qualifications to represent our principles in Parliament. Granted that it is said so. But the people should exercise faith in their own power, and look out for men, before bringing the matter to a decision. Should candidates prove to be scarce in Wales, there are plenty in England that would represent us faithfully. To facilitate the way thereto a general society, and branches of it, formed in every county, would do much. When the mother society is employed in matters of importance, such as corresponding with candidates and encouraging them to offer themselves, &c., the branches in the counties may do wonders in preparing the minds of the electors and securing their votes with them in the general and occasional elections. But there is opposition on the part of Welsh gentry. Admitted already. Their power is not so strong as it is supposed where it is decidedly opposed. I don't speak in the mist, I will produce a proof. A few months ago the vicar of this parish, Llanerth, demanded a Church-rate, the Dissenters declined, of course; he wrote to all the landed proprietors, requesting their interference, some of them complied and promised to attend the vestry. This being known, the tenants all joined to oppose such tyranny; the result was the complete defeat of the

vicar and his comrades, the gentry. One of them, when going from the vestry, was quite bad, scratching his head with the one hand, biting the nails to the ends of the fingers of the other, hinting, at the same time, that he would never have disgraced himself so much as to second the Vicar's despotism, had he known that the Dissenters were so determined. Why, we only want determination and courage—tyrants, in the long run, are cowards. If the above heroic example were instituted in the elections, &c., throughout the Principality, the opponents would throw down their arms and surrender at discretion.

D. MILTON DAVIES, Independent Minister.
Wern New Quay, March 16, 1855.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

MY DEAR SIR.—To say that the letters on the Welsh representation, which have appeared in your journal, have afforded me deep interest, would only be to under-rate their effect. In common with numbers of your readers, I consider the Principality furnishes a field for expectation and hope, that the recent letters are exceedingly well-timed, and that the results may be more gratifying than the less confident of your correspondents anticipate. While the sanguine letters published a week or two since appeared the more cheering, yet it is highly desirable that the improbabilities also should be candidly expressed. Mr. Salisbury, whom I should be happy to designate the honourable member for the Flintshire boroughs, stated in his letter, that, were he to contest the boroughs with the present member only, the result of a recent canvas would justify him in expecting a majority; but were a third to enter the arena, a defeat would be almost certain. I doubt not the principles on which he has based his calculations are valid, but I confess I cannot perceive how a majority of the whole could be reduced to a minority of two-thirds, supposing, of course, in the former case, that State Churchmen of all parties would vote for the Whig candidate. The prospect of another Dissenting barrister in Parliament is cheering; the antecedents are excellent. There is, I believe, scarcely a constituency in the West Riding who would not be proud of Mr. Hadfield. In case of a vigorous effort in Wales at the next election, the alternatives which Mr. S. anticipates appear certainly undesirable. If we take the worst of them, the Dissenting and Whig candidates defeated, and the Tories in these instances triumphant, at the next election the Whigs and Tories are supposed to compromise matters. I verily believe, however, that if the present tendency of things continues, by that time, not only the Whigs, but Tories also, will be desirous of making a compromise with the Dissenters. Doubtless I shall be expressing what is very generally experienced, in stating that the announcement of the formation of an Electoral Committee has afforded me great pleasure. In my opinion, the Council of the Religious Liberation Society, by its bold and vigorous movement, has claims upon the warmest sympathy, while the institution, under such admirable management, is entitled to the more general and more liberal patronage of the Dissenting public. An additional cause of congratulation presents itself in the appointment of president; if the other members of the executive are of the same stamp, we are, I think, warranted in expecting difficulties overcome, and results accomplished, which the most hopeful of us scarcely anticipated. While it should be our aim to make as much of Wales as possible, many of our English counties and larger boroughs—I say larger because many of the smaller are no credit to their representatives—must not be neglected. For instance, the town in which I reside is represented by a Liberal Dissenter and a Conservative Churchman; it is an essentially-Liberal town, and the latter gentleman was returned by the supineness of the Liberals not considering any effort necessary. After most determined exertions by his own party, an unnatural coalition and a stratagem, he was returned by the barest possible majority. It is considered by all parties that at the next election place must be given for one holding views more in accordance with the majority of the constituents; and here, if the late representative does not return, a Liberal Dissenter would stand as good a chance as any one. One of the principal objects of the committee would be, I presume, to correspond with constituents, and endeavour to find suitable candidates for their suffrages—this certainly is to supply what has long been a pressing want. An ardent admirer of abstract Anti-State Church principles myself, I would respectfully suggest to the committee the desirability of recommending candidates not to appear exactly on those principles; for although good progress has been made within the last few years, still, in the minds of some real Liberals in other respects, an instinctive dread exists towards anything of the kind. Once having been returned, they would be at more liberty on reappearing to be more abstract in their professions.

Apologising for such an unintended trespass on your space, I am, yours faithfully,

A THOROUGH NONCON.

THE COURTAULD TESTIMONIAL.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR.—Will you kindly afford us space for a few words in reply to inquiries and suggestions touching the proposal, to which attention has already been called in your columns?

Those who have formed their estimate of Mr. Courtauld's services in connexion with the Braintree Church-rate case, merely from what has appeared in the public journals, are likely to have a very inadequate idea of the extent to which the successful result of the contest is due to his personal exertions. His coadjutors are best able to appreciate the intelligence and tact evinced by him at successive vestry meetings, and the devotion of time, and unweary perseverance, during eighteen years of litigation, to which they feel they mainly owe their triumph.

As a considerable sum will be required to make such an acknowledgment of these generous services as is felt to be demanded, it has been deemed undesirable to limit the subscriptions in amount, but it is also felt that the value and significance of the Testimonial will be greatly enhanced if it represent the feelings of a considerable number of subscribers. It has therefore been suggested that, probably, not a few persons throughout the country will feel pleasure in collecting shillings and half-crowns—say to the extent of a sovereign or a guinea each.

We shall be happy to furnish printed statements and cards to those who may be willing to act on this suggestion, and, as it is hoped that the presentation may take place in "Whitsun-week," all who intend to subscribe, and otherwise to assist in furthering the object, should

communicate with one of the secretaries as early as possible. It is proposed to forward every contributor a report, containing a list of subscribers, an engraving of the Testimonial, and an account of its presentation.

We are, dear Sir, yours truly,
DAVID REES, Braintree,
J. CARVELL WILLIAMS, London, } Hon. Secs.

March 17.

HOLLIS v. TAYLOR.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR.—Mr. B. S. Hollis, of Islington Chapel, in a letter in your last impression, has the effrontery to charge me with giving publicity to statements that are "false and calumnious." Permit me, in answer, to say, that the whole of the statements I have put forth respecting the various overtures as to costs made to my client, are strictly true both in substance and in fact; and were made by Mr. Hollis's counsel in my own hearing, and in that of three other gentlemen, who are ready to testify to the facts I have stated.

Perhaps Mr. B. S. Hollis will, with equal boldness, deny the implied rebuke administered to him by my Lord Campbell from the Bench.

Your obedient servant,
JOHN BIGGENDEN.
5, Walbrook, March 16, 1855.

Parliamentary Proceedings.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

PETITIONS PRESENTED.

Army (Crimea), for inquiry, 3.

Border Marriages (Scotland), for amendment of law, 2.

Friendly Societies Bill, in favour of, 12.

Intoxicating Liquors, for prohibiting the sale of, 6.

Ditto, during the Lord's-day, 13.

Marriage Law, for amendment, 7.

Newspaper Stamp Bill, in favour of, 35.

—against, 4.

—for alteration, 1.

Paper Duty, for repeal of, 1.

Public Health Bill, for alteration, 1.

Real Estate, for amendment of law, 1.

The War, for prosecution of, 1.

Schools (Scotland) Bill, against, 2.

Stage Carriages, for abolition of duty, 1.

Distillation from Grain, for prohibition of, 7.

Peace, for securing on moderate terms, 1.

Nuisances Removal Bill, against, 1.

Independence of Poland, in favour of, 1.

Public Health Bill, against, 4.

Law of Succession to Real Estate, for amendment of, 7.

Stage Carriages, for abolition of duty, 13.

Wages, for payment without stoppage, 2.

Dwelling-houses (Scotland) Bill, in favour of, 1.

Lord's-day, against opening places of amusement on, 26.

Sale of Beer Bill, for repeal of, 1.

BILLS READ A FIRST TIME.

Vacating of Seats in Parliament Bill.

Burial Grounds (Scotland) Bill.

Education (No. 2) Bill

BILLS READ A SECOND TIME.

Cathedrals Appointments Act Continuance Bill.

Purchasers' Protection Against Judgments Bill.

CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE.

Friendly Societies Bill.

Intramural Burials (Ireland) Bill.

BILLS READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED.

Dean Forest, &c., Bill.

Purchasers' Protection Against Judgments Bill.

Lunacy Regulation Act Amendment Bill.

DEBATES.

REAL PROPERTY OF INTESTATES.

On Thursday, Mr. L. KING moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better settling of the real estates of intestates. He rejoiced, he said, that public opinion had been aroused to the extreme injustice of the existing law in this respect—to its inequalities and its anomalies. He proposed, by a simple and short act, to remove them by applying one uniform law to all the property of all persons dying intestate, so that it should make for them the same just will with reference to their landed property as the present law now did where the property was personal. He anticipated and replied to objections to the proposed alteration, and read several cases of extreme hardship, in which, through ignorance or accident, the existing law regulating the descent of real property had defeated the avowed intentions of intestates. The law of succession to real property, he contended, was an artificial system, imposed by conquerors upon a subjugated nation.

The motion was seconded by Mr. MASSEY.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL said the House would distinguish between a measure for the amendment of the law and one which would have the effect of altering some of the most important and established institutions of the country. To the former it would at all times afford a ready ear, and oppose no obstacle; but to a proposition for removing some of the landmarks and foundation-stones of the institutions of the country the House of Commons would reply in the language of its ancestors of old, "*Nolumus leges Angliae mutari.*" The alteration struck at the rule of primogeniture; it would affect the great settlements of the country, and tend to the indefinite subdivision of landed property, while it was not required as regarded the lower classes. The present law inflicted no real injustice; but the Legislature was bound to look to the general interests of the country. The proposition, which had last year been rejected by a majority of three to one, came recommended by no new argument; it was opposed not only to the opinion of the House already expressed, but to that of the best-informed persons out of it.

The motion was supported by Mr. EWART and Mr. WARNER; but upon a division it was negatived by 156 to 84.

PROBATE DUTY.

Mr. W. WILLIAMS moved a resolution, that real property and inappropriate tithes should be made to pay the same probate duty as is now payable on personal property, and that property belonging to

corporations, universities, colleges, bishoprics, and deans and chapters should pay a duty equivalent to the probate and legacy duties levied on personal property. He insisted upon the injustice of the present exemptions, especially since the reduction of the stamp duty upon conveyances and mortgages, and endeavoured to conciliate the Chancellor of the Exchequer by assuring him that, in his exigency, he might obtain at least 2,500,000*l.* by adopting the motion, at the same time doing an act of justice.

The motion was seconded by Mr. HADFIELD.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in opposing the motion, took exception to the form in which the subject was brought before the House. Mr. Williams should, he said, have submitted some distinct plan in a Committee of Ways and Means. He appeared to have confounded the legacy and the probate duties, and had lost sight of the incidence of the probate duty, the application of which to real property would require an alteration of that part of the law and an extension of the jurisdiction of the ecclesiastical courts. In the Succession Duty Act, which involved to a certain extent a probate duty, a settlement was come to, and there were peculiar charges still borne by the land. With respect to the latter part of the motion, relative to lay and ecclesiastical corporations, the subject was under consideration.

Mr. PEACOCKE spoke against the motion, dwelling upon the inequality of taxation pressing upon the landed interest. When peace was restored he considered that it would be the duty of the agricultural interest to demand an equivalent for the unequal pressure of local and other taxation, and that of the Government to revise our whole financial system, with a view to those peculiar burdens.

Sir G. STRICKLAND thought Mr. Williams ought to be satisfied with the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and to abstain from pressing his motion.

After some observations by Mr. CROSSLEY and Mr. MURKIN, upon a division, the motion was negatived by 84 to 61.

FACTORY LABOUR.

Mr. COBBETT, moved for leave to bring in a bill to limit the hours of work of women and young persons in factories to ten in the day; and to provide the means of more perfectly inspecting factories. His object, he said, was to have the bill printed, to let it be circulated, and that some time after the recess the principle of the bill and its provisions might be discussed. In stating the nature of the bill, he related the history of the factory question, the introduction of the act of 1847, its evasion by means of the shift-system, and the act of 1850, which extended the time half-an-hour for five days in the week, and curtailed it one hour on Saturdays. This act, he said, according to the inspectors, was violated immediately after it passed, and from that time to the present complaints were made by them that the act was constantly infringed by the overworking of young people. The reason why he was so strenuous in this matter was that the Ten Hours' Bill, when properly carried out, had effected its object in improving the social and physical condition of the factory people, respecting which he read some instructive details. By the provisions of the bill he restored the ten hours, he gave factory inspectors further powers to enforce the law, and he placed a restriction upon the motive power, which was the only mode of preventing an evasion of the law, though to this he was aware there would be great opposition. Lastly, he proposed to give the county courts jurisdiction for the recovery of penalties.

Sir G. GREY stated the reasons which induced him to oppose the introduction of the bill. If there had been any ambiguity in the object of the bill, or if any advantage could be obtained thereby, he should be ready to agree to its being laid upon the table. But there was no such ambiguity; Mr. Cobbett had stated the provisions of the bill, which were identical, or nearly so, with the bill he had introduced on a former occasion, and it would be mischievous to allow such a bill to be introduced, unless the House was prepared to agree to its principle. Upon such a subject Parliamentary interference could only be justified by necessity, and he considered that no case had been made out to justify this interference. The only facts alleged the Mr. Cobbett with reference to the condition of the factory population were antecedent to the act of 1840, and great benefits had resulted from that act, in conjunction with the act of 1850. He had inquired into the working of the law, and he had testimonies to its beneficial operation and to the satisfaction which it gave to the parties for whose benefit it was intended. It would be most prejudicial to all parties, in his opinion, if this question were re-opened; the best course was for the House at once to declare its intention to abide by the act of 1850. Mr. Cobbett had said that there was only one mode of preventing the violation of the law, and that was one which extended to the whole adult male factory population—namely, shutting up the mills and stopping the motive power. He asked the House whether it was prepared for the first time to adopt such a principle, which it had already refused to recognise?

Mr. W. J. FOX thought the House would not show a proper regard for a great number of working people, or treat the subject with the deliberation its importance demanded, if it took the advice of Sir G. Grey, and rejected the bill at once.

The motion was supported by Mr. NEWDEGATE, and opposed by Mr. ELIOT, Mr. CROSSLEY, and Mr. WILKINSON.

Mr. BRIGHT said, Mr. Cobbett proposed to disturb a question supposed to be settled for two objects; one was to diminish the hours of labour by two in the week; the other, to stop the steam-engine at a certain hour in the evening, so that not only no woman or child, but no grown-up man should work beyond that

hour. Mr. Bright urged that for that two hours it was not worth while to interrupt the present harmony, and light up the fires of discord in the manufacturing districts; and that there were obstacles in the way of stopping the motive power which would render the measure impracticable, except by opening new doors for the evasion of the law. In spite of the insulting manner in which, he said, the inspectorship was carried on, he was prepared to assert that the law was carried out in Lancashire and Yorkshire in as fair a spirit as it was possible for Parliament to expect, and he denied that there was the slightest necessity for asking Parliament to re-open the question.

Mr. E. BALL replied to Mr. Bright, in whose prognostications and promises upon this subject he professed to place little confidence. When these poor people told the House that the law was violated and the boon withheld, he considered that it would be an insult to them and a disgrace to the country to refuse to consider their claims.

Lord PALMERSTON observed that it had been his duty, when Home Secretary, to watch the enforcement of the law, and he was bound to say that, although small violations took place,—such as working an engine five minutes too soon or too late,—they did not require an alteration of the law. There was a broad distinction between restrictions regarding women and children and restrictions as to adult males. The principle upon which Parliament had acted was this,—that in regard to persons who could not be considered entirely as free agents it stepped in and restricted their hours of labour; but with respect to adult men there could not be a more vicious principle than for Parliament to interfere between labour and capital—between the employer and the employed. He agreed with Mr. Bright that when Parliament came to a settlement upon a great question involving the feelings and interests of large classes of men, and that settlement was established upon a compromise, it was unwise to disturb it without stronger reasons than Mr. Cobbett had assigned.

After a reply from Mr. COBBETT, the House divided upon his motion, which was negatived by 109 to 101.

GENERAL EDUCATION.

In the House of Commons, on Friday, Sir JOHN PAKINGTON moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better encouragement and promotion of general education in England and Wales. He began by advertizing to the constitution and action of the Committee of Council. He was greatly dissatisfied, he said, with the constitution and working of that committee, which he thought had become too important and was intrusted with functions too great to continue longer without being recognised as a department of the Government and represented in that House. His objection to its action was, that while a liberal allowance was made by Parliament, its grants were greatly misapplied, and produced the *minimum* instead of the *maximum* of good. The annual grant had risen from 10,000*l.* to 300,000*l.* per annum, and he thought that there ought to be a Minister in that House responsible for the money expended, instead of the half-and-half department now in existence, which was not even recognised by the Legislature. The first point upon which he insisted was the necessity of providing efficient masters. The masters now employed, he contended, were overtrained far above their duties, and took to other pursuits.

Mr. KENNEDY, one of the inspectors, complains that those who have been educated in the training institutions betake themselves, in a great number of instances, to holy orders. Mr. MOSELEY, a very able inspector, takes the same view of the subject, and so, also, does the Rev. Mr. MITCHELL. In addition to this, I hold in my hand a letter from the principal of one of the largest training institutions, in which, after stating that every one who is mixed up with the practical work of education is very dissatisfied with the Government scheme, and that the funds are badly administered, the poor localities receiving no encouragement, while others get more than their share. The writer goes on to say, "I do not believe that one in five of the pupil teachers ever become school-masters or schoolmistresses. Hence there is a great dearth of masters. In short, other trades pay better than that of a master, in proportion to the work done and the sacrifices made." I am afraid that it would be found, upon investigation, that not more than two-thirds of the pupil teachers ever become masters. It appears, therefore, that we are devoting the public money for the purpose of educating persons who subsequently become clerks or betake themselves to different pursuits from that for which they were intended. (Hear, hear.) But more than this; I have said that the public money is misapplied, and I believe that it is misapplied in this way—that the grants which are annually voted by Parliament are given under the minutes of Council to rich districts instead of to poor ones. The minute under which the grants are issued requires that a certain proportionate sum should be provided by the locality, and the consequence is that the poorest districts, which are in most need of assistance, get nothing from the annual grants of Parliament. I will illustrate this by a reference to eight parishes—four poor parishes and four rich ones. I will take the four poor parishes first. Clerkenwell, with a population of 64,763, has received 8*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* for books; St. Giles's, with a population of 37,407, has received 3*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* for books; Shoreditch, with 25,511 inhabitants, has received nothing; and Shadwell, with 11,700 inhabitants, has received nothing. Now, contrast this with four rich parishes. St. Michael, Chester-square, with a population of 8,500, has received 46*l.*; St. Barnabas, or part of St. Paul, with only 8,000 inhabitants, has received 40*l.*; Kentish-town, with 5,000 inhabitants, has received 84*l.*; and Kensington, with 30,000 inhabitants, has received 2,197*l.* The four poor parishes, therefore, with an aggregate population of 138,900, have received 12*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*, while the four rich parishes, with a population of upwards of 50,000, have received 3,908*l.*

Mr. COBDEN: Is that in one year?

Sir J. PAKINGTON: No; from the commencement of the annual grant down to the present moment. That

sum of 3,908*l.* granted to these four rich parishes has, no doubt, effected a great amount of good. I do not deny that; but is it the policy or the intention of this House, in voting so large a sum of money as it annually does for the purposes of education, that the rich only should be benefited, while the poor are to have nothing? because, practically, that is what it comes to. (Hear, hear.) I attach great interest and importance to this part of the subject. The bill which was brought in by the noble lord the member for London sought to give increased powers to the Committee of Council, and I also propose to give increased powers to that department to which the duties of public instruction are attached, but while I am anxious to place increased powers in the hands of the educational department of the State, I must beg at the same time to state that I am not content to place those powers in the hands of the Committee of Council as it is at present constituted.

He then entered upon a very detailed examination of the state of education in this country, citing his authority for every statement; admitting that upon the face of the statistics there appeared to have been a gradual advance in the education of the people, but contending that an exact analysis showed that the ratio of improvement had been less in late than in former years.

In the year 1818 the proportion of children at school was 1 in 17, in 1833 it was 1 in 11 and a fraction, and in 1851 the proportion had increased to 1 in 8 and a fraction. That, no doubt, appears to be an improvement—(hear, hear)—and to a certain extent I admit that it is, but if we analyse the figures, and especially remember that the statistics of 1833 have been called in question, we shall find that the ratio of the advance between 1833 and 1851 is by the means equal to the ratio of the advance between 1818 and 1833. I believe it to be a fact that many of the most important districts in England were in a worse condition in 1851 than in 1833. As instances of the justice of my assertion I may mention York and Liverpool. In Liverpool, in 1833, the proportion of children attending school was 1 in 7 and a fraction, while in 1851 it was 1 in 8 and a fraction; so that the state of education in Liverpool has positively retrograded, and that is also the case with regard to York.

From his own calculations, he concluded that the number of children between the ages of five and twelve not at school amounted to 968,557. He did not think the reason why they were not at school was because they were at work. For it appeared that, in Manchester, the number of children between the ages of three and fifteen was 69,500; and of those 32,000 were at school, 7,000 were engaged in work, and there remained over 30,000 neither one nor the other. The general result throughout the whole kingdom stood thus—that 41 and a fraction per cent. were at school, only 12 and a fraction were at work, and 46 and a fraction per cent. were neither at school nor at work.

The real cause I believe to be partly the poverty and partly the indifference of the parents—(hear, hear)—and I think this indifference proceeds in a very great degree from the badness of the education which is afforded in this country.

The education given in this country was very inferior. He believed that with the exception of Russia, Spain, Italy, and the Slave States of America, England was at the bottom of the scale. He described in detail the multifarious subjects of instruction in the State-schools of Prussia, Switzerland, Germany, and Holland.

From the report of Mr. MANN I find that there are 44,800 schools established in England and Wales, teaching as follows: Reading, 98 per cent.; writing, 68 per cent.; arithmetic, only 61 per cent.; English grammar, only 44 per cent.; geography, only 39 per cent.; music, 10 per cent.; and industrial occupation—which, in my humble opinion, ought to be one of the primary objects of school training—(hear)—only 2 per cent. Such is the general character of the instruction afforded in this country. Now, let me turn to the authority of Mr. HORACE MANN with regard to the character of no less than 30,000 private schools out of the 44,000 to which I have adverted. A rough attempt to classify according to efficiency the 29,420 private schools which sent returns produced the following result: Superior, 4,966; middling, 7,095; inferior, 13,879; undescribed, 3,495. He adds these significant words: "In the case of 708 out of these 13,879, the returns were respectively signed by the master or mistress with a mark." (Laughter.)

He then adverted to the connexion between ignorance and crime. From statistical returns it appeared that in Austria one in 800 of the population was detected in crime, while in England one in 300 was detected, making a difference of nearly three to one. (Hear, hear.) Taking of the metropolitan parishes eight parishes together, there was a total population of 662,694, of which number, if 1 in 6 were at school, as there ought to be, there would be a total of 110,449 receiving education. He found, however, that the actual number at school was only 35,306, deducting 27,611, or one-fourth, for those educated in private schools, there still remained a balance in these eight parishes of 47,532 who received no education at all. He then quoted the testimony of school inspectors and others, to show that similar ignorance prevailed throughout the country. For instance, out of 5,677 men enlisted in the militia in the eastern counties, it appeared that only 2,051, or little more than one-third, could write. From the report, in 1849, of the Rev. J. CLAY, chaplain of the Preston House of Correction, it appeared that of the 1,249 persons committed to that gaol 48 and a fraction per cent. were unable to read, 41 and a fraction per cent. were ignorant of the Saviour's name and unable to read the Lord's Prayer; only 10 per cent. were acquainted with the elementary truths of religion; 61 per cent. were ignorant of the name of the Queen; 62 per cent. were ignorant of the words "virtue" and "vice"; and 19 and a fraction per cent. were unable to count a hundred. Let them take care that in such a matter of concern to the welfare of the people, instead of setting an example to the civilised world, they did not become a laughing-stock to the other nations of Europe. The neglect of such a state of things, described as worse than barbarism, was nothing less, he maintained, than the neglect of one of the most paramount duties

of a Christian State. He then explained the nature of his bill. He proposed, in the first place, to make it permissive, and to liken the mode of proceeding to that adopted for the administration of the Poor Law, the area of operation to be the municipal limits in towns, and those of Poor Law unions in the country. He proposed that an Education Board for the union or town should be chosen by the rate-payers at large; that the magistrates of the district should be *ex officio* members of the board; that it should have power to provide schools, superintend the education generally of the district, and levy a rate for the expenses of education; and that the expenditure should be intrusted to boards popularly elected. Being convinced that the people of this country could not be educated on the voluntary system, he proposed that, when a locality consented to levy a certain amount by rate, a contribution in a fixed proportion should be made from the Consolidated Fund. He proposed that in all the new schools established under the bill the education should be free, as in New York, Austria, and Holland. They would thus avoid a great difficulty, and the whole system would be sounder and better than if they persisted in exacting the school pence. Great practical difficulty would arise in endeavouring to draw the line between those who should and those who should not pay? The persons who had to decide would give great dissatisfaction, and the only safe plan was to make education entirely free. (Hear, hear.) In no instance did he propose to interfere with existing schools; it would be optional with any such school to come into union or not under the act. If it did, he prescribed certain conditions. The last point was the religious difficulty, which he entreated the House to approach in a spirit of forbearance and moderation. First of all he assumed the existing fact, that there was an Established Church in this country, and further, that an immense majority of the people of this country are attached to it. (Slight murmurs.)

I hear murmur from honourable gentlemen opposite, and I perfectly understand their meaning; but I beg the House to believe that in dealing with this part of the subject I am actuated by the most single-minded object. I know it is a question whether the aggregate of members of the Church exceeds the aggregate of Dissenters, and I know that that question turns upon the mode in which you dispose of a certain number of millions of the population whom the census does not class either as Churchmen or Dissenters. There remains, however, this fact, which cannot be denied—that the Church is in an overwhelming majority, as compared with any other single denomination. (Hear, hear.) This must, therefore, be considered as an element of the question, and I may remind honourable gentlemen of the actual proportion of schools at the present time. I find from the census returns that the total number of day schools supported by religious bodies is 12,708. The number of Church schools is no less than 10,555, while the number of Independent schools is 453, of Roman Catholic schools 339, of Wesleyan schools 381, and the rest of the schools are supported by various other denominations of Dissenters. Out of some 12,700 day schools established in this country, therefore, no less than 10,500 are in connexion with the Church of England. (Hear, hear.)

He assumed that the secular system, whether intrinsically good or bad, would be rejected by the country. It was necessary, then, to consider, in choosing a system of religious teaching, what was practicable; and he wished to provide a religious education with a scrupulous regard to conscientious opinions. His plan was, that the schools in connexion with any religious denomination, wherever they existed, should be entitled to the same benefit, subject to the condition that no child should be excluded on account of religious opinions, and that no Church school should receive any benefit from the rates unless it admitted Dissenters' children without forcing upon them its creed. In the new schools he proposed that the religious teaching should be in accordance with the religion of the majority of the district—

Is this fair, or is it not? If the majority in any district in which a school is erected should be in connexion with the Established Church, the teaching in that school will be in accordance with the religious doctrines of the Church, subject to the rule that Dissenting children shall be admitted, without being compelled to receive instruction in Church doctrines. If, however, the majority of a district in which a new school is established should belong to any other religious creed, I would respect the feelings of that majority, and I propose that the religious teaching in such school should be in accordance with the creed of the majority, subject to the rule I have already mentioned, that all scholars belonging to the Established Church or to any other denomination in the district should be received into the school. Now, what alternative is there if this scheme is not adopted?

This mode of dealing with the religious element had been successful in foreign countries, and was not unknown in England. He would ask could the American system be adopted in this country? The House would remember that in America there was no Established Church; and that the different religious sects were distributed with much greater equality of numbers than in this country. No one sect greatly predominated in the United States, and religion was taught to a great extent at home, which could not be the case here.

I have drawn the attention of the House to the signal success of the laudable exertions of the present Bishop of Manchester when at the head of that splendid school—King Edward's school, at Birmingham—one of the highest educational establishments in this kingdom. The teaching of that school is that of the Church of England, but no Dissenting child has the doctrine of the Church forced upon him. The consequence is, that there are no denominations of Christians who do not freely and willingly come to participate in the benefits of King Edward's school at Birmingham, and religious difficulty and dissension are unknown.

In conclusion, the right hon. gentleman said:—

That bill may, and probably will be, unsuccessful; but I feel a deep conviction that year by year the

momentous nature of this question will become more apparent, and that ere long it must be settled upon principles similar to those which I have ventured to explain. Sir, I am willing to incur the risk of failure in a cause which I believe to be so important. I am willing to incur even more than the risk of failure. I am confident that by my own friends I shall be told that I have gone too far. Churchmen will say that I have conceded too much, and Dissenters that I have conceded not enough. I have endeavoured, however, with a single-minded object to deal with the question in a spirit of perfect justice and fairness to all, and in that spirit exclusively I venture to ask leave to introduce this bill. Be its fate what it may, be the consequences to myself what they may, I can only say that it will always be to me a matter of satisfaction that I have honestly endeavoured, at all events, to make some contribution to a cause upon which I most conscientiously believe the character and welfare of this country depend. (Cheers.)

Mr. HADFIELD opposed the bill. After referring to the progress which education had made within the last few years, he proceeded to advocate the importance of establishing Sunday-schools in preference to day-schools, because the difficulty of getting children to attend day-schools was so great that he did not believe that the number of scholars would be greatly augmented if day-schools were much increased. He believed that it was the common desire of persons of all creeds to promote the course of education; but he was convinced that the object could never be accomplished by rates and taxes. There could be no real success unless the voluntary system was adopted; and he believed that compulsory rates, so far from assisting education, would only retard progress and damage existing institutions. He was afraid that neither this bill nor that of the noble lord the member for London would meet with the approbation of the country.

Lord STANLEY wished, he said, to take the earliest opportunity of expressing his decided adherence to the general principles upon which Sir J. Pakington endeavoured to settle this great question, for which the time, he thought, was eminently favourable. The principle of State interference had been recognised by a large majority of the country, and, with regard to religious teaching, although he had witnessed so much evil resulting from ignorance that he was willing to adopt almost any scheme of education, he believed it would be impossible to carry out the secular system. He examined the leading features of the proposed scheme, to some of the details of which he raised objections.

That part of his right honourable friend's measure in which he proposed the establishment of new schools seemed to him open to serious objection. He was not ignorant of the necessity which existed for the establishment of those schools, and he admitted that the plan of having the religious teaching in them settled by the majority was the fairest and most equitable that could be adopted, but he thought that it was an experiment which would excite a great deal of angry feeling, and not be likely to succeed. But this was simply an addition to the bill which might be removed, in no way affecting its general principle. He thought the measure did all that could be expected in the way of recognising and including existing schools, and it also affirmed as far as possible the principle of local self-government. He thought it of great importance that districts were not compelled, but only empowered if they thought fit, to avail themselves of this bill, because he knew that in many places there was a strong feeling entertained against State interference in matters of education, and this feeling mainly arose out of a dread of centralisation.

Sir G. GREY, on the part of the Government, gave his most cordial assent to the introduction of the bill. He wished he could be sanguine as to the result; but, whether successful now or not, discussion of the subject must be productive of advantage. He agreed to a certain extent with Sir John as to the basis of his measure—namely, that a large portion of the children of the lower classes received either a most imperfect education or none at all, and were trained to crime. But, in comparing the statistics of this country with those of other countries, it must be recollect that we had not adopted, and were not prepared to adopt, a compulsory system, punishing parents for not sending their children to school. He agreed, too, that the voluntary system, though it had done much, did not keep pace with the wants of the country. He reviewed some of the general points of the proposed plan, observing that making it permissive only would, he feared, render it to a certain extent inoperative, and he, in conclusion, defended the Committee of Council on Education against the charge as to the misapplication of grants to rich instead of poor districts. [In reply to Sir G. Grey, Sir J. PAKINGTON said he proposed that 6d. should be the limit of the proposed rate.] Sir George further said—

With respect to the new schools, I confess I feel that a difficulty will arise. If I understand the right honourable gentleman rightly, he intends that in districts requiring new schools the district board should be authorised to erect them out of the rates, and that in these schools the religious instruction is to be in accordance with the religious opinions of the majority of the district. But take, for instance, a large district, in which the majority are members of the Church of England—would he, in such a case, make no provision for those who differ from the Church of England? I suggest to the right honourable gentleman that, as those who differ from the Church of England will be rated for educational purposes, some provision ought to be made to educate their children according to their religious tenets.

He did not object to the suggestion that the bills of Sir J. Pakington and of Lord John Russell should be referred to a select committee, except that they would be travelling over the same ground they had been before. He suggested that the second reading of the bill should be postponed till after Easter, to which the right hon. gentleman assented.

Lord R. CECIL said, that, although the bill was supported by the Opposition leaders, it did not meet with the unanimous assent of gentlemen on that side of the house. It appeared to him that the right hon. baronet had endeavoured to prove the badness of society by in-

stances taken from large towns, mere isolated plague spots, but those instances did not apply to the country generally. While it continued compulsory the bill must therefore prove absolutely nugatory. Again, it was altogether illusory to say that the measure would leave the existing schools where they were, because the effect of an educational rate, according to all experience, would be to dry up the sources from which private schools were now nourished and maintained, and the whole educational system of the country would be gradually absorbed by the public school. His objection to the religious clause was, that it was the secular system in disguise.

Mr. W. J. FOX complimented Sir J. Pakington upon the able, candid, and earnest manner in which this question had been brought forward, and trusted that the measure would be judged in the same spirit. Throughout the country the deficiency of the present system of elementary education was apparent. In such a state of things it might be safely assumed that a great improvement was absolutely necessary in the quality as well as in the quantity of elementary instruction. He approved the proposal to make the schools free, and reiterated the objections he had on former occasions urged against making religion an indispensable part of elementary education, such as reading and writing, with which it had, in his opinion, no necessary connexion. If the instruction were one which called the different faculties into wholesome exercise, there need be no apprehension, he contended, that the child would not be religious without any dogmatic teaching of religion in the school.

Mr. GISSON agreed with Mr. Fox that the friends of general education were indebted to Sir J. Pakington, with whose measure he agreed as regarded rating, local management, and the principle of separating religions from secular instruction, so that children of different religions might assemble in the same school. But the rock upon which the measure would split was his proposal that in every school supported by rates some religion or other should be taught, so that it was a scheme to teach all forms of religion at the public expense.

This was a difficulty hard to be overcome, because the sincere religious world would not consent to any plan that professed to teach all forms of religion at the public expense. If public education were to be supported by taxes and rates, they preferred that it should not go beyond secular teaching, and that religious instruction should be supplied by other means and in other ways. (Hear, hear.) He (Mr. Gibson) was most anxious to co-operate with the right honourable baronet, but he would ask the right honourable gentleman what his honourable friend behind him, the member for Warwickshire (Mr. Spooner), would say, supposing he were one of minority residing in a parish where the majority of the ratepayers were Roman Catholics, if that majority established a school, carried it on in strict accordance with Roman Catholic principles, and then called upon the honourable member to contribute his rate towards its support? ("Hear, hear," and a laugh.) Why, the honourable gentleman would treat the proposal with all the indignation with which he now treated the annual proposal to give grants of the public money to a Roman Catholic college in Ireland. The existence of a church establishment would make the difficulty very much greater. For it would, of course, be impossible for the State to raise taxes to teach a religion which was opposed to the religion of the State church. He should, therefore, for his part, decline to involve himself in the religious element at all.

The public, he believed, would prefer that the education should not go beyond secular instruction, and it was his intention to ask leave to introduce a bill for giving secular education in free schools.

Mr. ADDERLEY considered that the expediency of a local rate was generally admitted; that the schools supported by the voluntary principle—which were, generally speaking, the worst in the kingdom—had broken down. In considering the fittest system of education, the choice, he thought, lay between the secular system and the denominational, and the latter he believed to be the only system practicable in this country. He commended the bill proposed by Sir J. Pakington, which he placed in very favourable contrast with the bill introduced by Lord J. Russell.

Lord PALMERSTON observed that, until the details of the measure were before the House, it was premature to express any decided opinion as to the comparative merits of the two bills. The religious question, he feared, must oppose great difficulties in the way of a measure of this kind; but he hoped, with Sir J. Pakington, that those who held different religious opinions would recollect that all had opinions in common which might be the foundation of a system of education. Under these circumstances, he assented with the greatest pleasure to the motion.

Leave was then given to bring in the bill.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF THE METROPOLIS.

Sir BENJAMIN HALL moved for leave to bring in a bill for the better Local Management of the Metropolis. He proposes to take the Registrar-General's district as the area of the metropolis, and to abolish all the existing boards, and constitute one commission for each metropolitan district, of which there are thirty-six in all; the commissioners to be elected by the ratepayers, and to have the control of the paving, lighting, sewage, &c., and the powers of local Boards of Health with regard to nuisances. He proposes to place over these commissions a Metropolitan Board of Works, composed of representatives chosen by the local boards; the chairman to be a paid officer, and selected from three persons, whose names shall be submitted to the Home Secretary. It is proposed to give powers for the drainage of the metropolis to the boards, and for that purpose to take land out of their districts; also a power to levy general improvement rates in the same way as the sewer rates. The Metropolitan Board would also have the power of making the great intercepting sewers, building streets, and making thoroughfares. The City of London will be

dealt with in a separate bill; but he mentioned that it is proposed to take the coal-duties from the Corporation, and transfer them to the Metropolitan Board.

Mr. FITZROY thought that a bill of this importance ought to have been proposed by the Government: he thought it a hasty and inconsiderate measure. Lord EBURGTON also expressed strong objections. Mr. LABOUCHERE sanctioned the principles of the bill. Lord PALMERSTON hinted that Mr. Fitzroy was annoyed because he had not been selected to bring in the measure. The bill had been framed in consultation with Government.—Leave given.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, on the motion of Lord BROUGHAM, the Ecclesiastical Courts Bill was read a second time, after a remark from the Bishop of EXETER, in disapproval of the removal from ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the offence of brawling in church.

On Friday, the Royal Assent was given by Commission to the Exchequer Bills (17,183,000.) Bill, the Common Law Procedure (Ireland) Bill, the Mutiny Bill, the Marine Mutiny Bill, the Tea Duties Decline Suspension Bill, and the Secretaries of State and Under-Secretary of State (House of Commons) Bill.

In the House of Commons, on Thursday, the Torquay District Churches Bill passed the second reading, by a majority of 125 to 74; the majority of 51 in favour of the bill being obtained on the understanding that the 16th clause, which would have the effect of increasing and perpetuating the Church-rates, should be withdrawn in Committee.

In reply to Mr. PACKE, Sir G. GREY said, the question as to the expediency of altering Smithfield market-day from Monday to Tuesday was still under consideration; for although it might lead to less desecration of the Sabbath in the metropolis, there was some doubt whether such an alteration would not have rather a contrary effect throughout the country at large.

In reply to Mr. G. VERNON, Sir G. GREY stated that a bill had been prepared for the purpose of amending the Charity Trusts Act, which would be introduced into the House of Lords by the Lord Chancellor shortly.

In answer to Sir H. WILLOUGHBY, the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that, for several reasons, he should not propose to make his financial statement till after Easter.

Lord PALMERSTON said, in answer to Mr. FRENCH, it was his intention to bring forward a measure upon the subject of limited liability.

Mr. J. Heywood, M.P., will, on Thursday week, bring before the House of Commons a bill for "improving the condition and extending the benefits of universities, colleges, and endowed grammar-schools in England, Wales, and Ireland."

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE, on Thursday, moved for copies of any despatches or correspondence that had passed between Lord Raglan and the Duke of Newcastle relative to the wants of the army in the Crimea. All that he wanted was those parts of the correspondence solely relating to the wants of the army. He was sure that Lord Raglan would have attended to the representations made to him respecting the want of food, clothing, and medicines; he was also sure that the Duke of Newcastle was not indifferent to the wants of the army. The non-production of the papers for which he asked was most unfair both to Lord Raglan and the Duke of Newcastle, particularly if they would exonerate those individuals. He believed the fault rested with the Commissariat, with the Quarter-master-General, and the Adjutant-General, who were to blame in many particulars. Lord PALMERSTON said that Government had no desire to withhold any information, but a Committee of Inquiry is sitting, having power to send for papers; and the House would see that it would not be necessary to carry on two parallel inquiries. It would be better to leave the Committee to judge what information it may require. Motion withdrawn.

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

On Wednesday, the committee for inquiring into the past condition of the army before Sebastopol met again at twelve o'clock; Mr. Roebuck in the chair. Col. Kinlock gave some evidence as to the purchase of 300 mules in Spain, by orders of the Government.

The Earl of Cardigan, of the Light Cavalry Brigade, was then examined at great length by the chairman. He described the state of things after the arrival at Constantinople to the Crimea expedition; but his evidence on this point was not very striking, although great defects in the commissariat department were pointed out, especially in the short and irregular supply of forage. On arriving at Old Fort, in the Crimea, the weather was very bad. Orders were issued that the men should go on shore without their tents. The cavalry had no tents. The men bivouacked in the open air. They had watch-fires, but he could not say how their fuel was obtained. Was with the army on its flank march to Balaklava. Arrived there on the 26th September, after the battle of the Alma, where they stayed two days on the ground burying the dead and collecting the sick and wounded. It was a five days' march to Balaklava. He lost no men of his division at the Alma, although they were exposed to a terrible fire. They were not brought into action. At Balaklava encamped first at the entrance of the town, but subsequently on the heights a mile off. While there they were well provided with forage. They had plenty of good barley and hay, stacks of which they met with about the country. He was doubtful whether forage, hay and barley, could have been brought from Varna to the

Crimea. During his stay at Old Fort there was a fair supply of forage. The want of it commenced after the action at Balaklava. The cause of this, he believed, arose from deficiency in the transport. They were eighteen days without any hay. He believed there was a large quantity in Balaklava, but such was the steep and hilly nature of the country that it was found impracticable to bring it up, and animals could not be found to convey it to where he was stationed, about six miles distant. The strength of the horses was very much impaired for want of forage. About 360 horses of the light brigade were killed in the charge at Balaklava, and 400 had to be shot or killed for want of forage. After the action of Balaklava, being unwell, he lived on board his yacht in the harbour, but was in command of his regiment all the time, and there night and morning. At first there was no great sickness among his men, but in November it increased very much indeed. After he left on 8th December he never heard of any deficiency of rations. The troops had constantly fresh and sometimes salt meat. The hospital tents were in the rear of the lines. He visited them, and was sorry to see the condition of the men in them. There was no fuel for firing, and the men had to lie on their second horse blankets and cloaks usually. The horses suffered very much from exposure in November. When he left the Crimea, the state of his horses was in the worst possible condition. They had had nothing for many days—no hay, and only a small portion of barley for many days. The condition of the men's boots and shoes was very bad indeed. He made representations as to the state of the men's clothing, but he did not know what the answer was. The men at this time had only one pair of boots and shoes, but no one man had both. There were four regiments of 220 horses in his division before the battle of the Alma. From his knowledge of horses he should say it was impossible for horses to survive during a Crimean winter if not adequately supplied with hay. Nothing, as regarded cleanliness, could be worse than the state of the harbour at Balaklava. He believed the Turkish troops were ordered to clear it out, but they showed hesitation about going to work. Then came an order that they were to be paid so much a day; but that did not answer, and he did not see any attempt to clear the place after that. No attempts were made to remove the offal or dead animals. There were a great many seamen unemployed in the harbour, and if the military or transport authorities had given them instructions, the harbour, he thought, might have been cleared in a couple of days. Captain Christie was considered chief of the port and harbour-master, and that all the arrangements of the port and harbour came under his superintendence. He was aware that large amounts of stores and forage had come in vessels to Balaklava, and had gone away, made one or two trips, and returned with the same cargo. One vessel came with the hold filled with boots, and went away with them. He did not know whether that was at the time when the men wanted boots most, but they always wanted them. With regard to the management of those harbours and ports, he was of opinion that an officer should be placed there with supreme command, and that his orders should be instantly obeyed, whatever those orders might be. He was of opinion that the pestiferous state of the port of Balaklava, and the deficiency in stores and labour, were attributable to the absence of any central and single authority. The stores that were taken back might have been placed under tarpaulins on shore and preserved. No quays were provided at Balaklava for the landing of the horses, and he remembered seeing some of them fall into the sea in consequence. Believed that an offer of a large quantity of tarpaulin for covering the horses was not accepted. Mr. Commissary-General Filder never came to his division to inspect it.

Mr. Macdonald, the gentleman who distributed the fund collected through the *Times* to the sick and wounded at Scutari, was then examined, and gave his evidence in a very lucid and logical manner. He went to Scutari, where he found two hospitals, the general, and the barrack hospital. There were no returns of the number of patients in each hospital, and all sorts of statistics appeared to be kept secret. Dr. Menzies was at the head of the medical department at Scutari at this time, and all the hospitals were under his charge. He had a very inadequate staff, until the arrival of the Vests with nurses and a medical staff in November. The general hospital being originally intended as a hospital, presented a better appearance than the other. Of the whole number of patients, he should say that one-third were on bedsteads and two-thirds on the floor. In the general hospital, with the exception of want of beds, the patients were well provided for. There was sufficient medical relief and stores in that hospital to contribute to the comforts of the patients. It was a less unwieldy establishment than the other. With regard to the barrack hospital, he found that small provision had been made for converting it into a hospital at all. The hospital was in such a state that there was very little hope for a patient becoming convalescent at the usual time. There were about 2,800 patients of all descriptions in the hospitals at the time of his arrival. That was before the battle of Inkermann. He was there, also, after the battle of Inkermann. After the arrival of the fresh patients the hospitals were greatly overcrowded. The hospitals became more comfortable in some respects, for the ladies and nurses had arrived, and had filled up those gaps in the hospital which were so severely felt before. Still there was little real improvement. When he was first there the men were cheerful and hopeful; but on his second visit they were desponding, and on wet days they wrapped themselves in blankets and were buried in silence. The purveying department was not worthy the name. The first purveyor who was

sent out was Mr. Ward, a person upwards of seventy years of age, who was exhausted by a walk from the general to the barrack hospital, a distance of a quarter of a mile. He had two assistants and two boys—a most inefficient staff. During witness's visit Lord Stratford only made one short visit to the hospital. He (Mr. Macdonald) arrived at Constantinople with large supplies of money to be applied to the promotion of the comforts of the sick. Most of the things he supplied were bought at Constantinople, with the exception of tea, which was sent out from England. The things of which there was a deficiency in the hospital were tea, arrowroot, sago, sugar, port wine, marmalade, brandy, and a variety of other things. He also found a large deficiency of personal clothing at Scutari, which he supplied. No language could describe the deplorable state of the poor fellows who came down sick and wounded. They were almost without clothing, frequently without bed utensils and articles for personal cleanliness, and sometimes without medicines. Four hours was the average time of disembarking the men, and laying them in their beds; sometimes it was five hours. The barrack hospital was immediately on the side of the water, and the general hospital about a quarter of a mile away. No proper means had been provided by the authorities for the conveyance of the wounded men, and the stretchers were of very uncomfortable character, and not at all fitted for the purpose. Sometimes it happened that in bad weather the poor fellows were taken to the hospitals without any covering, the rain pouring down upon them. Some of the men who had been put on board at the Crimea came down to Constantinople without shoes, or with such shoes as one saw upon beggars in this country. Their shirts were thrown away with utter disgust at their filthiness, or torn into shreds. Sometimes they arrived without coats at all, while others wore the coats of comrades who had died on the passage. If it had not been for the supplies which he was the means of affording, the poor fellows must have gone without. During all this time ample supplies could have been obtained from Constantinople by the authorities, for there was no deficiency of labour in Turkey. He made his own purchases for the most part in Constantinople. There was no washing during the first five weeks after his arrival in the East. The patients' clothes were put under their beds, covered not only with vermin, but with discharges of wounds and maggots. (Sensation.) There were no means of washing the hospital floors. Miss Nightingale made a great change in these matters as soon as she arrived, and one of the first things she asked him (Mr. Macdonald) for was 200 hand scrubbers, and means for cleansing the floors. There was a capital laundry, but it was filled with chop-straw until his departure. He visited the hospitals at Balaklava. He found no fault with the hospitals themselves, but wherever the medical or purveying departments was concerned difficulties arose. There were deficiencies in port wine, arrowroot, and various things. Sometimes there was a want of opium in the Crimea, although at Constantinople there was the finest opium market in the world. It was the purveyor's duty to make arrangements for those comforts. That officer bore the same relation to the hospital as the commissary did to the army generally. The supply of opium would depend upon the apothecary, who was another very old officer. He did not think the medical inspector had any control over those two officers. He attributed the mismanagement of those hospitals to want of organisation under a single head. While at Balaklava he noticed the state of the harbour. Unlike the rest of the Euxine—the water of which was black,—the water in the harbour was grey and green. In fact, it was a great cesspool, and additional supplies had been sent out. No arrangements had been made for hospitals previous to the arrival of the English armies, but the French had, previous to their armies being sent out, provided hospitals which, in their general arrangements, were as good as hospitals in London or Paris. What he did in Constantinople in regard to the purchase of goods might have been more easily effected by the Government purveyor. He had seen the French orderly system, which was very much superior to that of England; indeed, he believed it was perfect. In the English system, directly the orderlies began to know something of the business on which they were engaged, they were removed to some other employment.

On Thursday, the Earl of Lucan (who with the Earl of Cardigan participated in the command of the Light Division charge at Balaklava) was examined. His lordship said, he commanded the Light Division Cavalry Brigade, and arrived at Scutari on the 4th May. His first commissariat difficulties began at Kulalce, where the officer was frequently changed. He presumed that the commissary officer was changed by Commisary Filder. He complained that the commissary officers were inexperienced men. When his division arrived at Varna difficulties were experienced in obtaining forage for the horses, though the troops were well fed, and had fresh meat daily. In the Crimea, although there was no difficulty as regarded the supply of forage, he had never more than one day's store on hand, so that it might really be said they lived from hand to mouth. They could have obtained stores at Balaklava. There were ships full of barley in the harbour, but they did not get it because the commissariat officers said they could not land the barley. No hay was served out to them until the end of October, though he presumed there was a great deal of it in the harbour, inasmuch as every ship that brought horses from England had a large quantity of hay in excess after the voyage. They got no chopped straw, and the horses for a short time were fed entirely on barley. They suffered in consequence from that kind of food, and became deteriorated in condition from the time that they left Constantinople until within a month of his leaving.

He (the earl) had had considerable correspondence while in the Crimea on the subject of the commissariat, and "this book," said his lordship (holding up a book of considerable size) "is full of them." The correspondence went to show that the officers of the commissariat department were totally unfit for their duties. He (the noble lord continued) had during the last few months repeatedly remonstrated with Commissary-General Filder, and entreated his attention to the wants of the cavalry, but to no purpose whatever. He insisted on leaving the commissariat duties with youths altogether without experience, and who did not show any zeal or desire to make up for their personal deficiencies. During all the winter months he never received any forage in advance from the ships. At Devna his division was very sick, and the men suffered very much in their feet all the time they were in the Crimea. They had new clothing served out in December. The men were supplied with skin jackets, which were warm and comfortable. Such was their want of forage, between the 14th and 20th November, that General Canrobert was kind enough to furnish them chopped straw sufficient for thirty days. The cavalry were not supplied with nose-bags and other requisites, and in consequence of this the difficulties they encountered were indescribable. Between the months of October and January they lost 1,100 horses. He reckoned that, between the two brigades, at the battle of Balaklava, the light brigade lost 300 horses that day; and as to the heavy brigade he knew that, altogether, they had 400 put hors de combat. The loss of 700 other horses he had adverted to in his correspondence with Lord Raglan. He calculated the value of their cavalry horses at 75*l.* each, and that was under the mark. He attributed the great loss of horses not so much to overwork, but to giving them that excessive work at a time when they were reduced. On the 7th January he addressed a letter to the Field-Marshal, which he read, in which he informed his excellency that since the 12th December no less than forty-two horses had died; that many had sunk on the road, and had been left to perish; that the mortality was so great that unless the regiments were, in future, relieved from the heavy duties they had to perform they would not be able to face service; but that if precautions were taken 400 or 500, or more horses might be saved. He observed that he could not withhold the expression of the great dissatisfaction felt by the officers commanding brigades and others in general, at the absence of any apparent termination of duties which were so repugnant to their profession. The letter concluded with an appeal to the Commander-in-Chief to maintain the dignity of the service. No answer whatever was returned to that letter. A considerable number of horses and mules were brought to the Crimea, but it would be very difficult to say what became of the horses and mules after landing; at any rate, they had a very short existence. They were nearly all starved or stolen. He proposed to Lord Raglan the propriety of forming an independent transport corps, and that it be taken entirely away from the Commissariat Department. That was about the 5th January. Lord Raglan wrote a letter to him, thanking him for the recommendation, but said the question was then under the consideration of the English Government. He could have formed a sufficiently effective transport corps at that time, for the service of the army. The commissariat officers in Bulgaria were so inefficient, that he gave up one of his aides-de-camp to provide forage. He complained repeatedly to Mr. Filder of having no assistant commissary attached to his division; from the want of which, not only his division, but the public interests, suffered to a great extent, as he allowed young gentlemen to go riding about the country bidding against each other, and the consequence was, that sheep rose in price from two to five piastres each. His representations to Mr. Commissary Filder were never attended to in any way. There was a great difficulty with the ambulance corps in Bulgaria, and he considered them the most inefficient and absurd corps that could be conceived.

The first witness examined on Friday was Mr. T. Mackey. He stated that he was a member of the firm of James Baines and Co., of Liverpool. That firm had had great experience in conveying emigrants. He believed that the manner in which the Government fitted up the ships was bad, and he should not be surprised if many horses were lost. It was very unsafe. He had made a proposal to the Government as to feeding the troops in the Crimea; his tender was to provision the troops at 3*s.* 6*d.* per man per day, giving each man per day one pound of bread, one pound of beef or pork cooked, one quarter of a pound of preserved potatoes, which would be equal to a pound of raw. He would also have given a weekly supply of three ounces of tea, three ounces of coffee, a pound of sugar, a pound of cheese, half a gill of pickles, two ounces of salt, half an ounce of mustard, besides half a pint of ale a day, and half a gill of spirit. He could have done this with a reasonable profit, as he had been in the habit of victualling emigrant ships. He could have done it with four ships of 1,200 tons burthen, constantly employed running to and fro. He tendered two vessels for provisioning the troops to the Transport Board, but on arriving at Cheshire he was told he was too late. He was, however, told to put his tender into a box. He recommended the adoption of hospital ships to the Government, but none, to his knowledge, were fitted out.

Mr. Green, shipowner, of Blackwall, gave evidence as to the transport service. He insured his own ships, and he had claimed the amount of insurance on the *Resolute*, because she was sacrificed through Government carelessness. The *Walmer Castle* was detained at Constantinople five weeks, with bread and stores on board. She then proceeded to Balaklava. He had not heard of her since.

Mr. Macdonald, of the *Times*, was recalled: The head of the medical department had asserted to him that nothing was wanting in the hospitals, but he found many things wanted. He supplied port wine amongst other articles. The Government port wine tasted decidedly of logwood and a little brandy, and the remainder he fancied was a sort of *vin ordinaire*. In fact, it was not port at all. He saw at the Constantinople Custom House a vast number of packages, containing preserved meats, and all sorts of good things, addressed to officers in the Crimea, broken to pieces, and the articles rolling on the floor. Nothing would convey any adequate idea of the manner in which the soldiers' wives lived at Scutari. At one time, forty-eight soldiers' wives, many of them with children, some with infants at their breasts, were huddled into one small room all in a state to which the worst common lodging-house in London, before the passing of the Common Lodging-house Act, would bear little comparison. Lady Alicia Blackwood had done much for them, and had to some extent improved their condition. The head inspector of the hospitals had been changed six times. —Mr. Macdonald, at the request of the committee, entered into full details as to the manner in which he distributed the fund placed in his hands. He supplied one whole regiment (the 39th) with warm clothing, on the recommendation of Mr. Woodman, the surgeon. He also supplied medical comforts and appliances on board ship; beds and Turkish quilts to convalescents sent home in English transports, on application of the Rev. Mr. Sabin. The cooking arrangements in the hospitals were miserable. Mr. Macdonald repeated that at his interview with the Duke of Newcastle, before going out the duke said the fund would be useless. The confusion in the transport system arose chiefly from the want of warehouses, wharves, and roads in Turkey. Giant steam-vessels were sent out full of stores. On their arrival at Constantinople or Balaklava, they were immediately converted into depots. Things which were wanted were immediately taken out, and the rest forgotten. The confusion created was as though one end of London-bridge was smashed in, and all the traffic of London allowed to go to the other.

Deputy-Commissary-General Stickney, who was at Constantinople under Commissary-General Filder, said he had been in the commissariat department forty-one years. It was his duty, while at Constantinople, to countersign receipts to vouch for the opening of stores. No one in the financial department of the commissariat was acquainted with the country in which he was located. He thought a local knowledge very essential to the due discharge of the commissariat duties. No one accompanied the commissariat who had any particular knowledge of Turkish coins, or who was acquainted with Turkish transactions. The Commissariat tenders were always drawn up in English, French, or Italian—never in Turkish. He did not know whether the English resident merchants were ever consulted with respect to the negotiation of bills. He had no knowledge of Turkey before he went there. Though under the orders of Mr. Filder, all his correspondence was sent direct to Sir C. Trevelyan at the Treasury.

The witness had only been a short time under examination when the committee adjourned, at a quarter to four o'clock, till Monday.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

Sir R. Peel, one of the Junior Lords of the Treasury, was re-elected for Tamworth on Wednesday, without opposition. His speech on the occasion, coming from a member of the Government, was a remarkable one. There had been a party in the House of Commons day by day increasing, and at the head of that party was placed by popular will Lord Palmerston. He knew that the character of the noble lord stamped that of the Cabinet. He (Sir Robert) had accepted office under Lord Palmerston because he believed that by doing so he should contribute to the interests of his country. The honourable baronet proceeded to give a graphic description of the sufferings of our troops in the Crimea, and read letters in justification of his opinions. He attributed the disasters in the East to mismanagement and to faulty arrangement on the part of the Commissariat department. He further said:—

The great arm of England is on the sea; and in a few days a hundred rascals will be afloat in the Baltic, sweeping that, &c., and blockading every Russian port. The policy of England is to do more than this. We must no longer be either paralyzed or humbugged by Austria; neither must Prussia, under the cloak of neutrality, be permitted to be the Russian ally. Let Moldavia and Wallachia be set up as an independent kingdom, as a check upon Russia and Prussia, as Belgium was a quarter of a century ago. Let Poland be restored to its place amongst nations—another sufficient bulwark against the aggressions of Russia. In 1812, England was looked to as the shelter of the liberties of Europe; in 1855, she would be found not only checking the aggressions of Russia, but successfully maintaining the liberties of the people of Europe. Lord Palmerston is disposed not only to restore peace, but to preserve the liberties of nations. Sir Robert asked for his Government fair play, but no favour: if he attempted not this, and attempted no reforms in our military system, let each constituency harass his Government with the expression of its disapprobation.

Sir S. John Bonham is now the selected Tory candidate for Liverpool. Mr. James Wilson, Secretary of the Treasury, having declined to contest the seat, the Liberals have put forward Mr. J. C. Ewart, who consents to stand provided he be not required to attend public meetings or to canvass personally. A public meeting in his favour was held on Saturday, W. Rathbone, Esq., in the chair. Mr. Holland, in the course of his speech, said that Mr. Ewart was a man well qualified to assist in carrying out the adminis-

trative reforms required in the conduct of the war. Had he not been a head director in railways, docks, steam-packet companies, &c.—the largest in the world? And was he not so now? Had he not received the repeated thanks of those companies for his administrative qualities? He should like to know what would have been the conduct of the transport service in the Crimea if they had had such men as Mr. Ewart to organise them? (Cheers.) He would further state that during the whole course of a long political life Mr. Ewart had been the stern and unswerving friend of the popular cause. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Robertson Gladstone spoke in support of Mr. Ewart. Resolutions heartily approving of Mr. Ewart and appointing an election committee were unanimously adopted, and the proceedings terminated.

The *Maidstone Journal* states that the gentleman who has been requested to stand on the Tory interest for the county, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the retirement of Sir E. Filmer, is Sir Walter Riddell, Bart., Recorder of Maidstone. Sir Walter has consented.

NEWSPAPER STAMP RETURNS.

Stamp at one penny issued to Newspapers in London during the year 1854:—

Athenaeum	161,000
Atlas	83,250
Bell's Life in London	1,161,000
Bell's Weekly Messenger	624,500
Britannia	91,000
British Army Dispatch	23,500
British Banner	158,807
Builder	75,203
Catholic Standard	78,250
Christian Weekly News (from July)	39,000
Christian Times	64,042
Critic	112,500
Clerical Journal	45,500
Court Journal	32,338
Church and State Gazette	30,000
Daily News	1,486,090
Ecclesiastical Gazette	143,400
Economist	224,000
Empire	209,950
English Churchman	65,175
Era	258,235
Evening Mail (three times a week)	800,000
Gardeners' Chronicle	350,000
Globe	850,000
Guardian	207,500
Herald of Peace (monthly)	24,250
Illustrated London News	5,627,868
Inquirer	45,500
John Bull	93,924
Lady's Newspaper	158,220
Lancet	87,200
Leader	108,000
Lloyd's Weekly	5,572,897
Magnet	295,250
Mark-Lane Express	270,000
Medical Times	85,675
Morning Advertiser	2,392,780
Morning Chronicle	873,600
Morning Herald	1,158,000
Morning Post	832,500
News of the World	5,673,525
Nonconformist	161,500
Observer	419,000
Patriot (twice a week)	122,658
The Press	146,300
Racing Times	40,150
Railway Times	72,000
Record (twice a week)	387,500
Reynolds' Paper	2,496,256
St. James's Chronicle (three times a week)	415,000
Spectator	142,000
Sun	825,000
Sunday Times	372,000
Times	15,975,739
United Service Gazette	106,086
Watchman	160,000
Weekly Dispatch	1,982,933
Weekly News	55,750
Weekly Reporter	8,590
Weekly Times	3,902,169
Wesleyan Times	126,000

ORPHAN WORKING SCHOOL.

The ninety-seventh anniversary festival of this excellent charity was held at the London Tavern yesterday (Monday) evening, when a goodly number of its supporters assembled to do honour to the occasion. The chair was to have been filled by the Earl of Carlisle, but in consequence of his early entrance upon his duties as Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, and the inability of some other distinguished individuals to occupy the vacant post, the chair was taken by Edward Ball, Esq., M.P. for Cambridge-shire, who most efficiently discharged that office. After the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal toasts were proposed. In proposing "The Queen," the Chairman called attention to the fact that Her Majesty was a munificent contributor to the funds of the institution, as well as the Duke of Cambridge, the Duchess of Gloucester, and other members of the Royal family. "Prince Albert," and "The Army and Navy" having been duly honoured, the Chairman gave the toast of the evening, "Prosperity to the Orphan Working School." He feelingly described the blessings of this valuable charity, and with much earnestness pleaded for its increased support. Commencing at a small house in Hoxton in 1758 with only twenty poor orphans, the institution had gone on to prosper until it accommodated about 250 children of both sexes in the noble building at Haverstock-hill. The report for the past year shows that the total expenditure of the institution amounted to 6,032*l.*, and the average number of children to 238. The balance-sheet exhibits a surplus, but the greatly increased price of provisions presses severely on the funds, and entailed last year an increased expense of 500*l.* At

the conclusion of the chairman's address the children were introduced, and their neat and healthful appearance excited the interest and admiration of the gentlemen present. After singing an anthem, "Now Pray we for our Country," the children passed round the room for the inspection of the company. After their departure, the secretary, Mr. Soul, read a list of donations and subscriptions amounting to about 400*l.*, and including 5*l.* 5*s.* from the Duke of Cambridge, 10*l.* 10*s.* from J. Remington Mills, Esq., the President, 2*l.* 2*s.* from the Earl of Carlisle, 5*l.* 5*s.* from the chairman, 5*l.* 5*s.* from Mr. Sheriff Crossley, &c.

The subsequent toasts included "The President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer;" "The Chairman," proposed by Jesse Hobson, Esq., and very appropriately responded to by Mr. Ball; "The Lord Mayor and Corporation," which was duly acknowledged by Mr. Sheriff Crossley. The health of the ministers who had advocated the claims of the institution was responded to by the Rev. Newman Hall, who dwelt with much effect upon the value of the Orphan Working School and upon the catholicity of its basis, and by the Rev. S. R. Ward, of Toronto, who had preached for the charity in the morning, and whose hearty advocacy of the claims of the institution excited much interest. Dr. Bennet responded, on behalf of the "Committees and Medical Officers of the Institution," and with the toast of "The Stewards," the chairman couched the name of the secretary, and, amid much applause, alluded to the indefatigable labours of Mr. Soul in promoting the interests of the school. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Mr. Turner.

Postscript.

YESTERDAY'S PARLIAMENT.

THE BALAKLAVA CHARGE.

In the House of Lords the Earl of LUCAN moved for copies of some reports and correspondence respecting the charge of the Light Cavalry Brigade at the action of Balaklava. He detailed with much minuteness the proceedings of that day, and the tenor of the orders he had received from Lord Raglan, contending that these orders, together with the positions of the various English and French corps at the time, left him entirely without discretion to decline or delay their execution. The noble lord proceeded to comment upon the letters that had subsequently passed between himself, the Commander-in-Chief, and the War-office, which had terminated in his (Lord Lucan's) recall from the Crimea, and vindicated throughout the whole series of transactions. He concluded by renewing his demand for a court-martial, before which he might prove his case.

After some observations from Lord Cardigan, in explanation of some points mentioned by Lord Lucan, Lord PANMURE, while regretting the painful discussion that had arisen on this subject, pointed out that the demand of Lord Lucan for a court of inquiry could not be complied with consistently with the rules of the service. He was sorry that he could hold out no hope that the decision which had been arrived at would be reconsidered, and he trusted that Lord Lucan, whose gallantry no one doubted, would now consent to let the matter rest.

Further explanations followed from Lords HAR- DINGE and the Duke of RICHMOND, after which, the Earl of DUNBY said he hoped that the House might be spared the continuance, or at least the repetition, of so painful a discussion. Lord Lucan might console himself with the reflection that he had done the country good service, that he had demanded and courted an inquiry, the refusal of which did not rest with him, and he therefore hoped that he would permit the subject to drop.

The return was agreed to.

Some other business was then despatched, and their lordships adjourned.

THE NEWSPAPER STAMP.

The House of Commons having resolved itself into Committee upon Newspaper Stamps, &c.,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, previous to moving certain resolutions, made an explanatory statement of the views of the Government upon this subject. He referred to the appointment of the select committee of 1851, which, after investigating the question of the newspaper stamp, reported that it was not a desirable subject of taxation; and to the resolution of the House last session, on the motion of Mr. M. Gibson, that the law was ill-defined, and that the subject demanded the earliest considerations of the House. He then adverted to the plan of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, observing that the reasons which had influenced Lord Aberdeen's Government were partly the resolutions of the House of Commons, and partly the anomalous state of the law which had grown up under the Board of Inland Revenue, and the circulation of class newspapers, part stamped and part not stamped. After a time a portion of these newspapers introduced news, and, no doubt, according to the strict interpretation of the law, they were subject to a penalty when unstamped. But if the law had been enforced strictly there must have been numerous prosecutions, and Parliament must have been asked to make the law more severe. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer had decided not to attempt to render the law more stringent, but to relax the law, and to make it uniform.

The plan he (Sir G. Lewis) was about to submit was substantially, and in principle the same. He then stated the outline of the plan which he proposed to embody in his bill, the general effect of which was to legalise the rule with respect to class publications, which would be permitted to retain the indulgence they now enjoyed by practice—namely, to stamp or not stamp parts of their publications, and to extend the same rule to all the rest of the newspaper

press, which would be allowed to stamp that portion of their issue which they wished to send by post. He replied to anticipated objections. He did not share, he said, in the apprehensions which some entertained as to the effect of this alteration upon a cheap and un-stamped press. Such a press existed at present: un-stamped newspapers, with an immense circulation, were perfectly innocuous and unexplosive, while certain stamped papers of a licentious character had become extinct. Another objection was, that there would be one press for the rich and another for the poor; but, to a certain extent, this state of things now existed, and he asked whether there were any reasons to regret it. That the alteration would entail a loss of revenue he admitted, and that it would be necessary for the House to provide the means of repairing it. The amount of loss would be about 200,000*l.* a year. An increase in the number of papers might diminish the loss, but he could not take it at less than 200,000*l.* which, at such a moment, was undoubtedly inconvenient. He concluded by moving the following resolutions:—

That it is expedient to amend the laws relating to the Stamp Duties on newspapers, and to provide for the transmission by post of printed periodical publications.

That any periodical publication, to be entitled to the privilege of transmission and re-transmission by the post, shall be printed on paper stamped for denoting the Stamp Duty imposed by law on a newspaper, printed on the like number of sheets or pieces of paper, and of the like dimensions, with respect to the superficies of the letter-press thereof.

That printed newspapers (British, colonial, and foreign) shall be transmitted by the post between places in the United Kingdom and Her Majesty's colonies, of foreign countries, or between any ports or places beyond the sea (whether through the United Kingdom or not), either free of postage or subject to such rate of postage not exceeding two-pence for each newspaper, irrespective of any charge for foreign postage, as the Commissioners of the Treasury and Her Majesty's Postmaster-General, with their consent, shall from time to time think fit.

Mr. GLADSTONE was glad to hear that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was not indisposed to give a favourable consideration to the establishment of a low postal tariff for printed matter, the effect of which, he believed, would tend to indemnify him for the loss of revenue on the stamp duty. He objected to the proposed retention of securities as a condition for postal facilities. There was a point which had not been adverted to by Sir G. Lewis—namely, the subject of copyright, or protection of literary matter in newspapers. He thought that the protection of literary property should receive some extension with reference to newspapers. The principle of protection of literary composition he considered to be a fair principle.

Sir F. BARING observed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had estimated the loss on the measure at 200,000*l.* a year, but Mr. Rowland Hill had calculated that the *maximum* of revenue, under such a change of the law, would be only 130,000*l.*; so that the actual loss might be reckoned at 250,000*l.* He thought that the proposal had been brought forward at a very unfit time, before the financial statement.

Mr. M. GIBSON said this was not a purely fiscal question, and that the measure should not be discussed on revenue grounds alone. The measure, as a whole, was not so good as that already before the House.

Mr. BENTINCK apprehended that the abolition of the stamp would deluge the country with trashy publications.

Mr. BRIGHT remarked upon the enormous expenditure which the House had sanctioned on account of the war, and called upon it not to grudge 200,000*l.* for the extension of the best means of instruction among the public.

Some observations having been made by Mr. Packe, Sir H. Willoughby, and Mr. J. G. Phillimore, the resolutions were agreed to, and the House resumed.

On the motion for going into committee of supply,

Sir H. WILLOUGHBY commented upon the amount of the unfunded debt of the country, remarking especially upon a sum of 1,750,000*l.* which was included in the total of Exchequer-bills now ordered for renewal, but which he urged had been specially obtained last year for a temporary purpose, and were since reckoned among the permanent items of the unfunded debt without the authority of Parliament. Considerable discussion ensued, in which Mr. Ricardo, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Gladstone, and Sir F. Baring took part. Mr. Gladstone pointed out that the terms on which he had obtained the grant of Exchequer-bills in March last had been totally and avowedly changed by the continuance and expansion of the war expenditure—while Sir F. BARING, admitting that circumstances had rendered the repayment of the Exchequer-bills in question impossible, contended that the fact of their being made permanent should have been formally announced to the House by the Finance Minister.

Mr. STAFFORD called attention to the medical arrangements made for the sick and wounded soldiers in the East.

Mr. F. PEEL replied upon all the points presented by Mr. Stafford. The number of the sick, though diminished lately, still remained very high, but their state and treatment had undergone much amelioration from the arrangements recently made by order of the Government for that purpose.

Lord PALMERSTON added that three gentlemen of high qualifications for the task, namely, Dr. Sutherland, Dr. Gavin, and Mr. Rawlinson, had lately been sent to the East for the special purpose of inspecting and suggesting improvements in the hospitals, armed also with powers to carry out their suggestions without delay. He had written to Lord Stratford, Lord W. Paulet, and Lord Raglan, that whatever arrangements these gentlemen might suggest should be carried into effect immediately, without reference to professional jealousy or hospital routine; that no impediment should stand in the way of any improvement they might point out. Colonel Knox, Captain Duncombe,

Captain Percy, and Mr. Kinnaird, having spoken, the House went into committee of supply.

Colonel DUNXAN protested against proceeding at so late an hour (half-past eleven), and moved that the chairman report progress. A division was immediately taken, when the motion was negatived by 72 votes to 19—33.

A vote of 1,638,000*l.* for the expenses of the Post-office was proposed, and agreed to, after considerable discussion upon the Irish branch of the postal service.

The House then resumed. The Burial Grounds (Scotland) Bill was read a second time.

The House adjourned at one o'clock.

THE MAYNOOTH INQUIRY.

The Maynooth Report has now been issued, and consists of two voluminous blue books. The result will sadly disappoint those ardent Protestants who expected to get rid of the Papal seminary. The Commissioners simply recommend sundry improvements in the management of the institution, saying nothing about the policy of the endowment. The *Morning Herald* is very wroth, and raises the cry of "Down with Maynooth." It is announced that "a large committee is forming, consisting of Whigs and Tories, Churchmen and Dissenters, who agree to place all other questions in abeyance until the Maynooth controversy has been decided. Before the present week is out their missions will be in all parts of the three kingdoms, and 'Anti-Maynooth committees' will be assembled in every borough in Great Britain."

THE SEBASTOPOL COMMITTEE.

Mr. Roebuck's Committee met again on Monday. Mr. Augustus Stafford was examined at great length, and testified to the shocking condition of the hospitals at Scutari and Balaklava when he was out there. The general deduction from his evidence was this: He wished to say that from every officer at Scutari he received the greatest personal courtesy, and that there was amongst them a great desire to reform the evils that existed. There appeared in the hospital great embarrassment, and it seemed that they did not know what to do. They seemed to fear to incur responsibility, and always entertained an apprehension that they were going beyond their duty. Captain J. Percy, who went out at the direction of Mr. Sidney Herbert, to visit the hospitals at Scutari, and take out forty-seven nurses, was next examined. After some further evidence, the Committee adjourned to this day, at twelve o'clock.

LATEST FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

The *Oesterreichische Correspondenz* publishes advices from Odessa from the Crimea to the 11th March. They say that the weather was wet, the roads totally impracticable, and that nothing new had occurred.

A Russian circular despatch has been issued to Russian representatives abroad. It states that the mission of the new Emperor is to shield the integrity of Russia, but especially to restore peace to his empire and to the world. The instructions to the Russian representatives at Vienna have been renewed in this sense.

The *Cologne Gazette* of the 18th inst. announces the departure of the King of Prussia for Dresden, where there is to be a political conference.

Private accounts from Odessa lead to the belief that Prince Gortschakoff is preparing for a grand attack on Omar Pasha's position at Eupatoria. Orders have been sent from St. Petersburg to take the place at any cost.

It is reported at Vienna that Austria, France, and England have definitely agreed as to what is to be required of Russia. According to their statements, no mention is to be made "of the razing of the fortifications of Sebastopol," but such a paraphrase as the following is to be employed:—

"There shall in future be none but commercial ports on the coasts of the Crimea, and on the eastern shore of the Black Sea."

Letters from Warsaw present the probability that Count Nesselrode will visit Vienna as soon as the deliberations of the Conference become critical.

Two women have been sent to prison for entering upon the lands of Petundrum, on the Panmure estate, with a dog and nets for entrapping game. It was contended that they could not be punished under the statute, as the act only speaks of "he" and "himself"; but the Sheriff held that the words "any person" in the leading enactment, made females liable.

Writing to the Mayor of Bath, expressing his willingness to present to the House of Lords the petitions adopted by the meeting lately held in that city to express sympathy with Poland, the Earl of Shaftesbury says—"The partition of Poland was an enormous crime and an enormous folly; the restoration of it is demanded alike by sense and justice. But, whatever be the views and feelings of single individuals or masses of men, the time has not yet arrived for Governments to interpose. We must rest content for the present with the expression of national sympathies."

A "reception" held on Wednesday evening by Viscount Palmerston, was attended by upwards of fifty M.P.s with their wives and daughters. Previously to the reception, the noble Viscount and Viscountess entertained at dinner the Belgian Minister and Madame Van de Weyer, the Baron and Baroness Von Usedom, the Countess of Shaftesbury, Frances Countess Waldegrave and Mr. Harcourt, M.P., the Right Hon. Sir Benjamin Hall, M.P., the Right Hon. Sir William Molesworth, M.P., and Lady Molesworth, Hon. W. Cowper, M.P., the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, M.P., Mr. Chichester Fortescue, M.P., and Colonel Malcolm and Mrs. Malcolm.

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The Nonconformist.

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 1855.

SUMMARY.

THE prospects of peace begin to be canvassed with an earnestness that is the best assurance of its probability. News from the Congress is scarce less anxiously looked for than news from the Crimea. But the Congress is as systematically tedious as the siege. The whole thing must be gone about in set form—the bases laid; their interpretation affixed; written or verbal assurances exchanged;—then, the points discussed *seriatim*, and each point approached as one might approach the prickly hedgehog. It is on the first of these four points that the Congress is understood to be now engaged; although, as the tussle of conflicting intellects and interests must be on the fourth, men less dominated by usage would settle *that* first, or break up in the attempt. So might Lord John Russell be back to us by Easter—to which it wants now but three weeks. But the diplomats are struggling to decide at Vienna how Turkey shall be governed, and from whence,—whether the protectorate over Molda-Wallachia and the Greek rite shall be exercised by Russia, or by the Greek Powers, and by which of them, or by all together. Even gentlemen so little likely to consider the feeling of princes and peoples as are these representatives of absolute monarchs and oligarchical constitutions, must be somewhat embarrassed by the magnitude and delicacy of the questions thus raised. A joint protectorate over a subjugated race and semi-independent provinces, will need a protectorate over itself—a sixth Power to restrain its mutual jealousies, or prevent its virtual absorption into unity.

This point settled, that of the possession of the Danube will cause not the less trouble that the interests of only Austria and Russia are here antagonised: the former being as anxious to obtain, as the latter must be reluctant to yield, a privilege of such political dignity and commercial value. For the grim alternative of the third point—Russia's surrender of Sebastopol, or the continuance of the war to compel its surrender, with a possible change of sides by Austria—a compromise is said to have been substituted. True to his House of Commons ultimatum, Lord John may insist upon the abatement of Russian power in the Euxine, and yet acquiesce in the existence of Sebastopol, more than undiminished, in the renown of impregnability. But it is now discerned that it is the fleet, not the fortress, which excites the apprehension of western Europe—"the drawn weapon, ever ready to pierce the heart of the Ottoman empire;" and with the reduction of the fleet, it is now hinted, the demands of England, if not of France, will be appeased. The military expedition and six months' siege, may well be deemed too large a price to pay for Lord John's want of rhetorical precision—since our fleet would have been quite sufficient to lock up that of Russia, until its "reduction" could have been peacefully effected; but if his Lordship brings home peace in his pocket, the needlessness of the war will be no reason for revoking the terms of its conclusion.

In all these speculations, the disposition and circumstances of the new Emperor must count for something. Thus far, there is no serious reason to apprehend obstruction from that quarter. The address to the guards, like the inaugural manifesto, may be regarded as expository rather of his internal than of his external policy. The latter would be more truly read in the circulars to representatives at foreign Courts; and these are reported to be distinctly moderate and pacific.

Intelligence from the Crimea is now too scanty and monotonous to be wrought up into those exciting descriptions which were wont to divide us between admiration and anxiety. Lord Raglan, described as working harder with his pen than any clerk, continues to send only brief despatches, and the letters of "special correspondents" have somewhat the aspect of effort to interest. Yet is not the army in the condition of that people which was pronounced happy because its annals were unreadable. Improved health and recruited numbers, the progress of siege works, and the phenomena of railway loco-

motion, the exertions of sanitary officers to arrest the plague that threatens to come with the sun, only lead on to events whose forest shadow is terrible. The armistice petitioned for by the Manchester people might perhaps be advocated from policy as well as from humanity. The strength of the defences is estimated at several times that which at first confronted us, and their nature (that of earth works) appears to have suggested a new chapter of military science. The affair of the 24th but too truly indicates, we fear, the desperate resistance that would be encountered in assault. Fifteen hundred or two thousand Zouaves, with as many Marines, were led by General Monet to an attack upon an advanced redoubt—found themselves surrounded by three times that number of the enemy—fought their way back with furious valour but heavy loss—and though they succeeded in gaining the works against which the assault was directed, were compelled to witness their destruction by the enemy's batteries and ships; and thus to leave in their hands a position of great importance. The check thus given to our impetuous ally is the more mortifying from the evidence it afforded of previous treachery.

The progress of the Sebastopol inquiry continues to contribute to the number of unfulfilled predictions and disgraceful disclosures. Twelve days' sitting, incessant questions, has failed to bring us upon that delicate ground of which we were warned almost with tears. The injustice against which we were cautioned, if not, as yet unaccomplished, is uncomplained of, and may be redressed. Certainly, statements more damnable of official character than those made, during the past week, by Lord Lucan, Mr. Macdonald, and Mr. Stafford, it is hard to imagine. Their separate depositions supply the materials of a picture stretching from Sebastopol to Scutari, and gloomy in the extreme. The camp, the harbour, the passage, and the hospital, seem to have been all given over to the government of warring agencies—no two agreeing to do the thing for which conjoint action was necessary, and no one doing his own work at the right time. It is, however, the hospital administration—as portrayed by the two last-named witnesses—that the most shocks us; not only because it was the helpless and agonised that were there to be cared for, but also because the means of ease were comparatively at hand and in unstinted abundance. In the capital of our ally—under the eyes of our ambassador—in the presence of a fleet sufficient to convey thither, in a few weeks, whatever of skill, attention, comfort, and even luxury, London itself could furnish—men lay rotting with putrid sores; sick and mutilated heroes, every one a Lazarus at the gate of Dives.

The Earl of Lucan has sought from his peers the justice denied him by his profession. By letters or statements—not the less impressive from the abrupt, uneven earnestness of his address—he tries to demonstrate that not on him lay the heavy responsibility of a reckless slaughter; and not without effect. The new fact brought out last night was, that the fatal charge was to be made in conjunction with a movement by the French. Every one feels that this materially complicates the case—or rather, mournfully simplifies it. He might have hesitated to execute an order, though delivered by an aide-de camp, which would expose his men to frightful, unavailing loss—but not at the risk of leaving an ally unsupported. Here we suppose the case must rest till Lord Raglan can himself be heard in this deplorable controversy.

The appearance of the Maynooth Commissioners' Report is an event not to be omitted. It will disappoint even those who expected least from it, and will set loose the movement which has long awaited its appearing. Unwelcome as may be an ecclesiastical agitation at this moment, even to those who see in the war itself a phase of ecclesiastical politics, it may not be avoided. Inevitable is the contest—let it also be decisive. It need have alarms only for those whose side is yet to choose.

NOTES FROM THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OUR "Notes" must assume the shape, this week, of a summary of what has been spoken in the House of Commons, and reported by the press, rather than a description of what has passed under our personal observation. We state this much in starting, because we are anxious not to impose upon our readers anything approaching to a fraud, even when that might be done by simply keeping our own counsel. We admit that, since our last Number, we cannot speak of what has occurred in the House as having witnessed it, except on Wednesday, and the earlier part of last night. Detained at home by physical symptoms which we durst not neglect, but which have all but disappeared, it has been our misfortune to have missed one or two discussions in which our readers, no doubt, would have taken a lively interest, and in which we ourselves, if present, had contemplated taking part. We

make this statement simply with a view of preserving the authenticity of this portion of our paper, for it has been our invariable effort to make these "notes," as nearly as possible, the record of an eye and ear witness.

The questions which have been before the House during the past week, would in quiet times of peace have been deemed important. But the interest of all of them has been mournfully overshadowed by the war, almost the only subject which now commands attention. The equal distribution of landed property among the children of intestates—the subjection of real estate to probate duties, as in the case of personal bequests—the introduction of a ten hours' limitation of factory labour to be enforced by a stoppage of the motive power—and the placing of the numerous Friendly Societies which exist throughout the kingdom upon a firmer legal basis—are objects which, whatever view one may take of them, cannot be described as deficient in practical interest. The bill on the last-mentioned topic was conducted through committee, on Wednesday, by Mr. Sotheron, who has paid great and laudable attention to it, and who has framed a measure which has the recommendation of satisfying the parties who will be most directly affected by it. The other measures to which we have alluded, were, after brief debates on Thursday night, successively refused introduction, by varying majorities.

On Friday, Sir John Pakington obtained leave to bring in his bill for promoting national education. We are informed that he had a tolerably good House, and a reasonably attentive audience. His speech on the question was long, and showed both higher ability, and greater liberality, than we should have given him credit for. His plan comprises the following features—the substitution of an educational department, under a chief responsible to Parliament, for the existing irresponsible and anomalous Committee of Council—the division of the country, for educational purposes, into districts corresponding with municipal boroughs and poor-law unions—a school-rate, not exceeding sixpence in the pound, to be aided, in certain proportions, from the Consolidated Fund—*free* education to all who may claim it, in the schools thus maintained—local management, subject, however, to these restrictions, that religion shall be taught, but not to those scholars whose parents object—the admission of existing schools to all the advantages proposed by the bill—and, lastly, in the case of new schools, the decision of what is to be the dominant religion therein, by the voice of the majority of rate-payers.

The development of this scheme was prefaced by an elaborate exposition of what in the honourable baronet's view, is the present state of education in this kingdom. He proved, unquestionably, that which nobody doubted—namely, a serious deficiency in our educational means both as to quantity and quality. What he did not prove, but took for granted was, that his bill will satisfactorily remedy that evil. We do not believe it will. We see no reason for believing that liberality which does not now exist, will be eager to tax itself for the instruction of the poor—and we are tolerably certain that what the poor do not now value for their offspring sufficiently to gain for them at the cost of a pot of beer weekly, they will not value for them when offered *gratis*. The effect of this plan will be to kill voluntary agency wherever the bill is adapted—for it is permissive only—and to relieve clergymen from the annoyance of soliciting subscriptions for their schools.

Sir John Pakington's statement was followed by a discussion, in which Mr. Hadfield alone maintained the superiority of the voluntary principle. Lord Stanley reproduced the views on this question to which he recently gave utterance in his speech at Lynn. Sir George Grey shrewdly hinted at some of the exaggerations which coloured Sir John Pakington's statement, and some of the more obvious impracticabilities attempted by his bill. Mr. Fox repeated the substance of what he has invariably spoken on similar occasions, and Mr. Milner Gibson promised a third bill on the subject, embodying the views of the Seculars. Mr. Adderley abused the voluntary principle, and eulogised Sir John's scheme as greatly superior to Lord John's—which Lord Palmerston, who was otherwise very complimentary, told him was unreasonable until he saw the details of the honourable baronet's measure. Of course, leave was given to bring in the bill, and the remainder of the night was occupied by Sir Benjamin Hall in introducing a general measure for the municipal government of the metropolis.

The newspaper stamp duties resolutions—for the bill of Mr. Gladstone is already abandoned—were brought forward on Monday, by the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, and, after brief discussion, passed—with the understanding that the main debate shall be taken on the second reading of the bill to be founded upon them. The House was far from crowded—and symptoms showed themselves of a disposition to upset the proposed alteration, if possible. Sir

G. C. Lewis's first statement, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, did not indicate any wide range of practical statesmanship, nor any possession of expository power. In the latter respect especially, he is the very antipodes of his predecessor. His speech was dry, bald, and hesitatingly delivered—not very well calculated even to convince—still less fitted to persuade. We should be sorry to judge him prematurely, but he strikes us as a red tapist in the hands of red-tapists. Mr. Gladstone, who followed him, demolished such of his positions as were objectionable, and Mr. Gibson and Mr. Bright made some pertinent and valuable criticisms. Sir Francis Baring and Mr. Laing expressed fears for the revenue—when the utmost loss to be apprehended is about 200,000*l.* a year. We have no great faith in the good-will of Government in this matter—but, happily, they *cannot* preserve things *in statu quo*. If they do not go forward, they must dare to go backward; and in stead of remission, must resort to prosecution. We have no fear as to the course they will choose.

TOPICS FOR TO-MORROW.

THE Day of Humiliation need not be profitless as well as unpopular. The sixty thousand London labourers, to whom the Fast will be a diminution or denial of the daily bread only to be obtained by daily labour, not an addition to or a change of diet, can hardly regard it but with irritation. The liberated clerks and shopmen, who will make it as much a holiday as March winds and closed "entertainments" may permit, will need no provision for reflection. But the tens of thousands who will observe the day with more or less of devoutness and decorum, ought not to let their thoughts drift moodily over the surface of calamities and failures, without an effort to connect effects with causes, and get a lesson for action as well as a chastisement of feeling.

The position of the army is one such topic. It is still a position of eminent peril. The disappearance of the snow, the hardening of the roads, and the clemency of the atmosphere, are advantages not all our own. The enemy will avail himself of them to concentrate or recruit his forces—to line with yet another human breastwork those "tremendous earthworks" which have risen before our eyes—perhaps to make the long threatened attack upon our extreme right. Often as we have heard that the hour for action had come, it is certain that that dread hour cannot now be long delayed. The extent of the siege works, the number of guns in position, and the rapid progress of the railway—by which ammunition may be served to the batteries with the ease and regularity of the fuel supply in a Birmingham foundry—point the finger of doom at thousands of lives. The loss must needs be fearful, even if there be no direct encounter. The failure of our artillery to open the way for an assault, would only delegate the question to the field, and bring on another Inkermann. The anticipation of such struggles was painful enough when we knew them only as matters of history. Now that they have passed, as it were, under our eyes, who of us does not feel that if importunity with Heaven or exertion upon earth could avail to prevent their repetition, we should not sleep nor eat till it were accomplished?

The policy of the war is surely no less a matter of grave reflection now, than when, nearly twelve months since, we were first summoned to prayer for its success. We were then in doubt and misgiving, even the boldest of us, as to the objects really sought by our Government, the stipulations to which we had been committed, the results that were likely to be wrought out. Are we any clearer now on any of these important points? We have twice changed our ministers, but we are told that our policy is unchanged, and we should be glad to feel assured that any change would not be for the worse. The humiliation of Russia,—or, at all events, the reduction of her power,—is still being sought, as it was this time last year, by the separate efforts of diplomatists and commanders; the humiliation accomplished, meanwhile, being no less our own than her's—and, if by power, the *prestige* of power be meant, the reduction pretty equally shared between us. The question of Ottoman integrity rests just where it did—on the uncertain ability of the Turks to hold their own. The liberties of Europe, if delivered from the fear of Russian encroachments, are scarce less endangered by the ambition of one of our allies and the duplicity of another. Everywhere prevails uncertainty and distrust. The Congress at Vienna divides attention with the armies in the Crimea, and the sense of disaster at the one point is companioned by a sense of dishonour at the other. The nation is only more dissatisfied with the prospects of the war than with the prospect of peace. It knows not its own mind, and cannot execute its own will, even if it have one. The thoughtful of the people feel it as sackcloth on their skin that the people at large are unguided either by an earnest faith or an earnest feeling.

But it is the *misconduct* of the war that must supply the bitterest food of meditation. That is a topic which six months of incessant writing by

the ablest of English pens has only stripped of its outer skin, leaving the kernel yet to be penetrated. Its systematic treatment has but now begun, and its effect on the public mind is like the smarting of the eyes that look on the peeling of onions. As we take off one after another of the coats wrapped about the question by distance of place or by official care, there is a fresh outburst of humiliated and indignant feeling. The crowded auditory in the Committee-room No. 17 broke out, at one point of Lord Lucan's evidence, into loud murmurs of disapprobation. Remarkably enough, it was an instance of our national humiliation in the eyes of the French that provoked this act of unusual self-forgetfulness on the part of a staid public. General Canrobert lent us thirty days' forage. Presently it was heard that the French were in want of chopped straw, and the fact was ready to be adduced in excuse of our shortcomings; but it was our neglect to repay the loan that caused the deficiency! Lord Lucan contributed, perhaps, more than any other witness, facts of the second of those three classes into which we last week divided the evidence. He made personal complaints of nearly every department or grade of the civil service. His "gentlemen of the Commissariat" were young, utterly inexperienced, and careless—one of them a Treasury clerk, the other the son of a bishop; the Commissary-General took no heed of his representations; and Lord Raglan disregarded his proposed remedy for that defective state of the transport service which left horses to die of hunger while forage accumulated in the harbour. Lord Cardigan tells us that four hundred of these costly animals had to be shot—that the sick men were wrapped in the coverings of their poor steeds, for lack of hospital bedding—and that men were seeking at Constantinople, as he came home, to purchase the winter clothing and boots which had been sent to Balaklava and returned. But Mr. Macdonald, the *Times*' commissioner at Scutari, carries up the sum of horrors and culpabilities yet higher. The Duke of Newcastle objected, at the outset, to the *Times*' fund as unnecessary—yet, great as was the necessity for it on his arrival, the necessity soon became greater. Two-thirds of the patients lay upon the floor, and in the tattered sodden garments they had worn in the Crimea. They were sometimes without medicine, and often without food. The purveyor was an old gentleman of seventy, whose morning walk to the hospital exhausted his strength, and of whose staff of four, two were boys. The orderlies had so long to wait for their rations that a patient might not get his breakfast till dinner time. The port wine was a concoction, and the attendants drank it up. There were—until Miss Nightingale set up the laundry, at the expense of the fund—no means of washing; and under every patient's bed was a heap of clothes, often loathsome filth. At Balaklava the water was green with filth; the harbour was a cesspool. And all this time, the French hospitals had been as well ordered as any similar establishment in Paris or London.

Some of our preachers might discourse tomorrow from that text in which it is set down as the reproach and misfortune of a people that its princes are children. It must have been the folly of childishness, or the heartlessness of sordid age, that committed the victimisation of armies, and the care of sick and wounded, to superannuated storekeepers and beardless Treasury clerks; while the bone and sinew, the heads and hands of London and Lancashire, were to be had at any warehouse between Whitehall and Wapping.

EPIDEMIC MORTALITY MINIMIZED.

SANGUINE as have ever been our hopes of improvement in the public health from the extension of sanitary conditions to the homes of the poor, we must confess to surprised and almost incredulous gratification at the results reported in a document just laid before Parliament,—Mr. Glover's Report on the Common and Model Lodging-houses of the Metropolis, with reference to epidemic cholera in 1854. Lord Shaftesbury's Act of 1851 placed under the supervision of the Commissioners of Police, a class of dwellings the most pre-eminent for the disease, depravity, and wretchedness of their inmates. The acting inspector of every division was instructed to inform common lodging-housekeepers of the regulations imposed by the Secretary of State (at the instance of the Board of Health) upon such establishments, and to require conformity thereto. That the police exercised this new function with no undue severity, is indicated by the fact that, in October last, only 1,721 houses, out of 10,284, had been registered as completely conformed to the regulations—time being allowed to the landlords, for the most part only a little better off than their miserable tenants, to make the required alterations. In the unregistered houses, 50,000 persons find nightly accommodation—in the registered, 32,000. In both sorts of houses, with a total average population of 82,000, there occurred, from January 1 to October 1 of last year, only seventy-two cases of cholera, and sixty-one deaths;

eight cases of fever, and two deaths; five cases of small-pox, and one death;—a lower rate of mortality from epidemic diseases than among an equal population, even in the healthiest district of the metropolis!

Some doubt is thrown upon the literal accuracy of this return, by Mr. Glover himself, from the very migratory character of the common lodging-house population rendering it probable that an attack commenced in one place would generally terminate in another. But the very great abatement of sickness and mortality in such dwellings, effected by the adoption of the simplest means, is as certain as it is highly satisfactory. Another class of facts yields the same general result. Mr. Glover sums up the inmates of all the model lodging-houses—including the "renovated" dwellings in Drury-lane—and finds, on returns not to be doubted, that the deaths from cholera were in the ratio of only 26 in 10,000, or, excluding fatal cases of an exceptional character, of 7 in 10,000; while the mortality from the same cause was, in the Kensington Potteries, in the ratio of 259 in 10,000; and in Bermondsey, of 162 in 10,000. Well may he conclude, therefore, that as you improve the dwellings even of the poorest poor, you advance the standard of their physical health; and well may he describe, with disinterested eulogies, the steps being taken to transform Wild's-court from a den of loathsome misery into an abode of cleanliness and comfort.

The Report contains one other statement, alike new and encouraging. It describes the benevolent adoption, by Mr. W. E. Hilliard, of Gray's Inn-lane, of the Albert cottages (exhibited in Hyde Park, and now at Kennington Common), as the model of dwellings on an estate which he inherited. It was situated in Shadwell, one of the worst districts in the metropolis, and was covered with hovels comfortless and unhealthy, but high-rented. These he pulled down, raised the ground to a proper level for drainage, and erected eighty tenements. Some of them have been inhabited nearly three years, by an average population of 450, among whom not a single death has occurred from cholera or diarrhoea. They yield a net profit of six per cent. per annum, are engaged before their completion, and are inhabited by a superior class of people, compelled to live in that locality, and previously paying as high rents for much inferior accommodation. The more of this sort of competition the better. It is a competition, not only for dividends, but for the civic crown awarded to the saviours of the lives of citizens.

GLADSTONE REVISED BY LEWIS.

SIMPLICITY is an element of grandeur. The greatest principles may be enunciated in a few words, and the most important acts of legislation comprised in two or three clauses. This appears to have been Sir Cornwall Lewis's one idea in the revision of the Stamp Duties Bill: to reduce its several provisions to one, and effect its main object by a briefer enactment. But in the pursuit of simplicity he has sacrificed far more important considerations.

His resolutions have not even the superficial merit of easy intelligibility. A first reading would scarcely give a satisfactory interpretation. One does not perceive at a glance whether the stamp is to be the postal privilege of *newspapers* exclusively, or to be extended to as many periodicals, of a certain weight, as may choose to apply for it. Nor does the resolution even hint at the views of their author on the important question of copyright. Upon the settlement of this question may perhaps depend the ultimate fate of any legislative revision of the law of newspapers. Of the eleven "objections" circulated by newspaper proprietors, and endorsed, we regret to observe, by the emphatic adoption of the *Examiner*, there is scarcely one that is not mendacious and insolent. The only exception is the seventh paragraph, which complains that the abolition of the stamp

would give such encouragement to piracy as could be met by no possible enforcement of the law of copyright. It may be sufficient to disinterested reasoners to reply to this complaint, in the words of the *Leeds Mercury*, that "the fear of piracy is entirely groundless. Newspapers which have early and original news, together with good writing, will always be bought before it would be possible for catchpenny copyists to bring out their disreputable wares. Two or three hours' start is as good for a newspaper as a month." But the jealousy of proprietorship cannot be so easily appeased. The prospect of the reproduction in a few hours, at a fourth of the original cost, of reports, correspondence, or leaders, representing a vast expenditure of money and talent, is too well founded in existing practices, to be dispelled by a syllogism. By the confession of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Milner Gibson, the literary matter of daily journalism is entitled to protection, because in danger of systematic, profitable piracy. The Chancellor of the Exchequer would have done well, therefore, we think, to embody some provision for this object in his draft.

But a more serious omission is that of a

sententious tariff of postal charges for printed matter in general. To delegate the settlement of such charges to Treasury minutes and Post-office regulations, is to retard the commencement and jeopardise the progress of "enterprises of much path and moment." Only a legislative enactment can give a security of tenure at St. Martin's-le-Grand to a species of property peculiarly fluctuating in value. To fix the maximum charge of twopence for six ounces neither disarms the hostility of great interests nor rewards the exertions of "the active agents of change." But the gravest of these omissions is that relating to the transmission of printed matter not definable as a newspaper. The distinction is untenable in theory, and practically objectionable. The newspaper is but a series of pamphlets, published periodically, and continuously numbered. There is no obvious reason why facilities permitted to the periodical expression of thought, should be denied to its occasional, and, perhaps, superior utterance. The pamphleteer is needed to break the monotony of newspaper literature, and to ventilate ideas which established journalism may reasonably decline to utter. The revenue derivable from this extension of the penny post, moreover, would supply the deficit created by the remission of the stamp upon a third or half of the present circulation—no mean consideration in a great fiscal exigency, and in a controversy of comprehensive arguments.

For these reasons, we much prefer Mr. Gladstone's bill in its original state, to the revised edition issued by Sir Cornwall Lewis. But that they have a common object, is a matter of sincere gratulation. It recognises the existence of a cheap press as an accomplished fact—confesses the "dissatisfaction" denied in the "objections" above cited—marks its entrance upon the last stage of a movement that has enlisted some of the ablest minds and most earnest sympathies of this generation. Now that a confessedly unfriendly Minister has accepted from the hands of a predecessor who was long its sturdy opponent, a measure for the emancipation of printing from the badge and burden of the stamp, its removal is a question only of time, and of a short time. Every day's delay, in truth, only renders the settlement more imperative. It was not till the law could be no longer enforced—judges differing in its interpretation, and offenders daring its penalties—that a Minister could be brought to concede its abolition. That step gained, but one other intervenes between a people of natural intelligence and the unsealed fountains of timely knowledge.

Court, Personal, and Official News.

On Wednesday, the Queen held a levee, at St. James's Palace; very numerously attended. On Thursday, the Queen and Prince Albert left Buckingham Palace a little before ten in the morning, and arrived at Osborne a little after midday. The Royal yacht steamed through the centre of the line of the fleet at Spithead; the ships were dressed, and a salute was fired. The guests of the Queen have included the Prince of Leiningen, Earl Spencer, the Duchess of Inverness, the Earl and Countess of Malmesbury, Sir William and Lady Molesworth, Sir Charles and Lady Mary Wood, Sir John Pakington, the Maharajah Duleep Singh, the Earl and Countess of Clarendon, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Disraeli, Sir Charles Eastlake, Lord Adolphus Fitzclarence, Sir James and Lady Graham, Sir George and Lady Thérèse Lewis, Major-General Torrens, and the Duke of Cambridge.

The Rev. H. Melville, B.D., has been officially appointed to preach before the House of Commons at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Wednesday (to-morrow), the day appointed for a general fast. The Bishop of Salisbury is to preach before the Lords. The Lord Mayor is to attend Divine Service, to-morrow afternoon, at St. Paul's Cathedral, when the Bishop of London will officiate. It is expected that the members of the corporation will go from Guildhall in walking procession to the Cathedral.

We (*Daily News*) understand that there is a renewed expectation of an early visit of the Emperor of the French to this country, and that the Empress will probably be the guest of Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace shortly after Easter.

Earl Dundonald, "foreseeing the impracticability of capturing numerous and powerful fortifications by the means now in preparation," again offers—by a petition to the House of Commons—his plans and his services to accomplish these objects, "reserving the encased batteries and steam gun-boats entire and ready for the brief and easy task of destroying the hostile fleet."

On dit, that the Duke of Newcastle is preparing for an excursion to the Crimea, with a view to collect materials for his defence.

The budget is not to be introduced till after Easter, and Friday, the 20th of next month, is said to be the day at present fixed for the new Chancellor of the Exchequer to make his financial statement. An additional sum of between 17 and 20 millions is required for defraying the expenses of the war, and it is understood that the money will be chiefly raised on long terminable annuities.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

Mr. Barry Charles Hampton Knight, son of Mr. Charles Knight, is appointed index maker to the *London Gazette*—*Observer*.

THE WAR.

OFFICIAL DESPATCHES FROM THE CRIMEA.

The *Gazette* of Friday contains the following despatch from before Sebastopol, March 3:—

My Lord,—Some more ships are said to have been sunk since I wrote to your lordship on the 27th. I am not certain of this; but according to my observation, the new barrier across the harbour appeared yesterday to have been extended beyond the point at which I had seen it two days before. The enemy is busily occupied in establishing works considerably nearer the French batteries on the right than that which was attacked by our allies on the morning of the 24th. The enemy seemed to be increasing their force in the neighbourhood of Sebastopol. The railway continues to progress satisfactorily; and we already make considerable use of it in conveyance of stores, hutting materials, &c., as far as Kadikov; and the electric telegraph is completed between that village and my head-quarters.

The weather has again become extremely cold; and there was a fall of snow yesterday, and a little this morning.

I enclose a list of casualties to the 1st inst. inclusive.

RAGLAN.

Total casualties from the 26th February to March 1st.—2 rank and file killed; 1 sergeant and 8 rank and file wounded.

The *Gazette* also contains a despatch from Sir Edmund Lyons, enclosing a copy of a letter from Ahmed Pacha, commander-in-chief of the Ottoman squadron, returning thanks for the assistance afforded by Her Majesty's ships during the attack upon Eupatoria by the Russians on the 17th of February.

A Supplement to Friday's *Gazette*, published on Sunday, contains the following despatch, which, it will be observed, is dated four days earlier.

BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, Feb. 27, 1855.

My Lord,—It appears that on Saturday night the enemy sunk three or four more ships of war in the harbour, as far within the booms as the first sunken ships were outside of them: and, according to the most accurate examination yesterday, there are now four barriers of impediment to the entrance of the harbour, viz.: two of sunken ships, and two booms.

The only movement on the part of the enemy, since I last wrote to your lordship, is the march of some infantry and artillery from the neighbourhood of Bakchisarai towards the Tchernaya, upon which river, near Chagouma, they have at present five guns and several hundred men.

The weather has been fine for the last three days, the snow is gradually disappearing, and the country is becoming drier.

The enemy have re-occupied the ground which was the scene of contest between the French and Russians on Saturday morning before daylight; and they are making great progress in a work they are establishing upon that point.

I enclose the return of casualties to the 23rd instant.

I have, &c. &c.

RAGLAN.

Total casualties from the 23rd to 25th of February:—2 rank and file, killed; 5 rank and file, wounded.

A despatch from Kamiesch, from Admiral Brunat, confirms the intelligence of the French rockets having succeeded in setting fire to some parts of Sebastopol. Two Russian officers had deserted to the English camp. The siege works were being pushed forward actively. The news of the death of the Emperor Nicholas arrived at Kamiesch on the 6th, at seven in the evening.

General Osten Sacken writes from the Crimea, under date of March 9, morning, "The enemy's fire does no damage in Sebastopol. Letters from Eupatoria, of March 6, announces that two squadrons of our Lancers and 400 Cossacks have completely defeated eight squadrons of Turks."

DESPERATE ENCOUNTER BEFORE SEBASTOPOL.

The attack of the French upon a redoubt in front of the Malakoff Tower appears to have been more serious than was at first imagined. It appears from both the Russian and the French reports that in the night of the 21st of February the Russians succeeded in throwing up with great rapidity a new redoubt on the right bank of the Careening Harbour. Within forty-eight hours General Canrobert resolved to force this new position, and the attack was made before the work had been completed. A large body of French troops, under General Monet, advanced in the night of the 23rd against this redoubt. The Zouaves rushed upon the intrenchments with the utmost bravery, and a sanguinary contest ensued, which cost our gallant allies nearly five hundred of these admirable soldiers. The Russian infantry regiments of Selenghinski and Vohynia, under the command of General Kroustchoff, defended the work with great steadiness, and after a severe combat the French column was compelled to retreat. This unfortunate result has been attributed to several causes—the disclosure of the French plan of attack by spies, the fire of the Russian vessels in the harbour and from the surrounding forts, and a want of steadiness on the part of one portion of the assailants, who are said to have left the Zouaves to bear the brunt of the engagement. We are unable to determine with certainty what amount of truth there may be in these statements, but it is undoubtedly true that the Russians appear to have expected the attack, and had occupied the position with a small army rather than with a detachment in proportion to its extent. On the side of the French the force consisted of only half a brigade of Zouaves, 1,600 strong, two battalions of Marine Infantry, 2,300 strong, and 400 volunteers—in all less than 4,500 men. The Russians were 10,000 strong, and the unfortunate Zouaves fell into a regular ambuscade. Nevertheless, such was the dauntless valour of these troops that they

stormed the redoubt and held one-half of it against fearful odds, when the Russians succeeded in out-flanking the column; the Marines were separated from the Zouaves and driven back in all directions, and the latter were completely surrounded by the enemy. A second time they succeeded by sheer hand-to-hand fighting in completing the capture of the redoubt, but no sooner had the Russian infantry fallen back than the batteries and ships opened a terrific fire upon the work, and rendered it completely untenable. It was not till then that General Monet, who was twice severely wounded, ordered a retreat. The failure of the attack on the 23d has left the Russians for the present masters of a position which is of importance, since it commands the approaches directed against the Malakoff Tower. In the opinion formed by the French and English engineers who have arrived last in the Crimea—an opinion said to have been entertained from the first by Sir John Burgoyne—this tower is the key of the whole southern line of works, it is probable that the greatest efforts will now be made on both sides for the recovery of the ground which commands the approaches to it.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CAMP.

Letters from Balaklava are to the 3rd of March. The following is a brief summary of their contents:—The weather was fine, but frosty. Sickness was on the decrease. The preparations for the bombardment were making rapid progress. The railway now conveys ammunition to the distance of three miles. The Russians are approaching towards Inkermann from Malakoff. A truce of one hour was agreed upon on the 27th February to bury the dead. General Osten-Sacken commands at Sebastopol. Our rear is now greatly strengthened. General Burgoyne has left. It was said that Prince Menschikoff has left for Moscow. The correspondent of the *Morning Herald* writes:—

"Both Allies and Russians are evidently straining every nerve for a final struggle. Every day, and all through the day, numbers of the enemy's troops are incessantly employed in their earthworks, and seem not only to be preparing measures for a vigorous defence, but actually for advancing, as if to besiege us in our own parallels.

"There are still no signs of any attempt to cleanse the camp ground; another month, and it will be too late. The weather has again changed for the better; it is cold, with very sharp north-east winds, but dry and sunny. Lord Raglan now is frequently seen riding through the different parts of the camp.

"As much fresh meat and vegetables as can be procured are now served to the men two or three times a week, and the beneficial effects of this change of diet are becoming every day more and more apparent. Scurvy is fast diminishing, though fever is rather more rife than could be wished for at present.

"I mentioned in my last letter that none of the regiments were huttied. I was partly right and partly wrong. Huts were then preparing for the 39th, though not finished. These are now completed, and occupied by the men. Huts are now also in course of erection for the 38th Regiment, and these two are the only entire corps which are not under canvas.

"It would appear, beyond doubt, that the Russians still display, in spite of the Emperor's ukase, the same cowardly ferocity which at Inkermann rendered their name odious throughout Europe. Most of the bayonet wounds were given to the poor Zouaves and their brave officers after they had been already wounded and disabled by musket shots."

The following are further extracts from the camp correspondence:—

EXPECTED RENEWAL OF THE ATTACK.

Every one still seems confident as to the results which will attend our re-opened fire. It is intended to concentrate the fire of certain batteries upon one or two weak points in the enemy's defences until the guns in them have been dismounted, and the abbattis round them destroyed. To effect this each long gun will fire 100 rounds of shell every twelve hours. The mortars will fire all through the night to prevent the enemy repairing the damages which have been caused during the day's bombardment—the long guns will only fire during the daylight. Fieldpieces, small howitzers, and cohorns will be used in our most advanced works for the destruction of the stockades and abbattis. Storming parties will be told off to attack each battery as soon as silenced. With the new batteries lately thrown up the English will open fire with about 150 guns, and the French with nearly 200. The 10th or 11th of March are spoken of as the dates on which it is most probable we shall re-commence our attack. In spite of these assertions, which are repeated from all points, I still find no reason to alter the conjecture made two days since, that it would be towards the end of March or beginning of April before our attack commences. . . . The Redan Battery, at the commencement of the siege, mounted about forty-five pieces of heavy ordnance. Now, our artillery officers estimate that with the upper second line of works there are more than 220 guns in all, placed so as to command every conceivable point from which we can approach. This rule, and almost to the same extent, applies to all the other defences. Malakoff Tower, the earthworks round which mounted twenty-five guns on the 17th of October, now mounts seventy; and the Flagstaff Battery, which mounted forty or fifty, now mounts upwards of 150. The Garden Battery, Quarantine Battery, Barrack Battery, and Mud Fort, have all been strengthened in proportion.—*Morning Herald Correspondent*.

IMPROVED STATE OF BALAKLAVA.

That dirty town has fallen into very strong hands, and the cleansing process is carried on with might and main. "With the strong hand" would not be too strong an expression to characterise the zeal, fervour, and energy now put forth to remove the abominations which we have been collecting ever since October last. Colonel Harding, who came forward at the eleventh hour to make good what the culpable neglect of his

two predecessors had made bad, must surely be in constant communication with the Board of Health, for all his measures and arrangements savour of Whitehall rather than of the expedition to the east. He has come to the conclusion that the place is hopelessly swamped with mud, impregnated with filth, deluged with abominations, and that every inch of ground, each house, each stone, is pregnant with the germs of disease. Having settled this point, he resolved to pull the town down, to destroy it utterly, to burn it with fire, and to build up a new Balaklava in the place of the old one. This resolution is now being carried out. For, after all, this town, though a nuisance, is a necessity, and we are compelled to hold it, even if it were to become the very cradle of pestilence and the occupation cost us hundreds of lives per week. The shortest manner of dealing with Balaklava would have been to burn the place outright. But, as we want the houses for stores, offices, and quarters, there were some very natural objections to this summary plan of radical reform. Colonel Harding's method is to pull down one house after another, and to erect wooden houses in their places. The cellars are cleaned out, and the filth and rubbish brought to the light of day, heaped up in the open places, and burnt. For days past such fires have been burning in all parts of Balaklava, and a dense cloud of black, stinking smoke hangs over the town. The stones of the ruined houses are carried away, broken up, and used for the improvement of the roads. The places where the houses stood are levelled, and large quantities of quicklime strewed over them.—*Daily News Correspondent*.

THE RAILWAY.

The Balaklava Railway is now completed for two miles, and fast progressing. A shed, denominated the station, has over it in large letters "Eastern Counties Railway." Every morning, at eight o'clock, the train starts laden with commissariat stores, at present dragged by horses.—*Daily News Correspondent*.

The railway has begun to render us some service in saving the hard labour attendant on the transport of shot and shell; and enables us to form a sort of small terminal dépôt at the distance of two miles and three quarters from Balaklava, which is, however, not large enough for the demands made upon it, and it is emptied as soon as it is formed by parties of the Highland Brigade, who carry the ammunition to the camp dépôt, three miles and a half further on. The railway is not yet sufficiently long to induce Mr. Filder to avail himself of it largely for the transport of provisions to the front, as he conceives such a partial use of it would impede the formation of the rail, derange his own Commissariat transport, and produce endless confusion at the temporary terminus. The Commissariat officers of the Second Division have, however, been allowed to use the rail between six and eight o'clock every morning, and about 500 tons of provisions and stores have been moved up towards the front by it within the last few days. Two large loads of shot, about 2,000, have also been sent up to the terminus, and have been conveyed beyond Kadikoi, where the fatigue parties of Sir Colin Campbell's forces receive them, and carry them to the artillery parks. The navvies, notwithstanding the temptations of the bottle and of strange society in Vanity Fair or Buffalo-town, work honestly and well, with few exceptions, and the dread of the Provost Marshal has produced a wholesome influence on the dispositions of the refractory. The Croat labourers astonish all who see them by the enormous loads they carry, and by their great physical strength and endurance. Broad-chested, flat-backed men, round-shouldered, with long arms, lean flanks, thick muscular thighs, and their calfless legs—feeding simply, and living quietly and temperately—the Croats perform daily an amount of work in conveying heavy articles on their backs which would amaze any one who has not seen a Constantinople "hamal." Parties of men have been lent to Mr. Beatty to assist in the works of the railway; and at this moment 200 men of the Naval Brigade have been detailed in order that the construction of it may be hastened and facilitated as much as possible.—*Times' Correspondent*.

MORE VIGOUR APPARENT.

Whatever the cause may be, it is quite evident that an unusual display of energy has been visible recently in most of the public departments connected with the army. The word "must" begins to be heard. Whether its use is attributable to the pressure of the French, to instructions from home, to the necessity which exists for it, or to any specific cause, I am unable to surmise. Certain it is that officers are now told so many guns *must* be in the batteries on such a day, and that such a work *must* be finished by such a time. A Chef d'Etat-Majeur has been appointed, and General Simpson is expected every day, to assume that important office, and to harmonise the operations of the Quartermaster-General's and Adjutant-General's departments. A sanatorium is about to be established on Balaklava heights, the hospitals are in order, and now (and now only) a General visits the trenches every day, and sees that the men do not neglect their duty.

LORD RAGLAN AS A SECRETARY.

Lord Raglan goes out to one or other of the divisions every day he can spare from his desk. Perhaps there is no clerk in England who has so much writing to get through *ipsa manu* as the Field-Marshal in command of the Forces. I believe his Lordship is frequently up till two or three o'clock in the morning, looking over papers, signing documents, preparing orders and despatches, and exhausting his energies in secretary's work. Such a life could with most men afford little opportunity or energy for action. The system that necessitates such labours on the part of a Commander-in-Chief must be faulty; it certainly is unsuited for the field or for times of war, and is cumbersome and antiquated. General Estcourt has also to get through an enormous quantity of writing, and

General Airey is much occupied in the same way. The requirements of home authorities oblige the heads of departments here to perform a great deal of writing. They have to fill up innumerable forms, requisitions, abstracts, and returns, and every motion in the House for papers overwhelms them with fresh matter for pen, ink, and paper.

THE HOSPITAL AT BALAKLAVA.

The most acute observer would fail to detect the slightest resemblance between the appearance of the hospital here and the very elaborate review of it with which Mr. Stafford so recently favoured the House; and I think the institution, with the help of the wooden huts which have been erected, now accommodates nearly four hundred patients, and though the demands upon it are still so great that, a few nights ago, the medical officers vacated their own quarters for a night in favour of a detachment of the Guards sent down sick from the camp, yet, upon the whole, in consequence of the admirable arrangements and constant supervision of the officer in charge (Dr. Hanbury) the poor suffering soldier has here an asylum in which his wants will be attended to with a tender hand. During the last week a staff of eight female nurses have been rendering their services in the hospital. Their exertions are highly spoken of, and the lady dresser intendant's representations receive instant attention from those in authority. A cook-house has been built, and a washing-house is in course of construction. As the patients already enjoy a variety of articles of food, so they may soon hope to be regularly supplied with clean linen.

THE WEATHER.

The oppressive warmth which characterised the weather yesterday has disappeared. This morning was dark and somewhat cold, and each hour leaves less light in the sky. . . . The weather has been of the most extraordinary character for the last few days. Three days ago the very sight of a great-coat or a pair of warm gloves made one perspire; next day it was so cold that even our immense stores of warm clothing were not superfluous: out of the midst of summer you are here suddenly precipitated, at half an hour's notice, into the midst of winter.—*Times Correspondent*, March 1.

Three days ago the thermometer stood at 56 deg., next day it fell to 40 deg., in the afternoon it was at 32 deg., at night 28 deg. Yesterday morning early it was at 22 deg.; this morning it was at 24 deg.; it is now at 36 deg. Twice or thrice during this time the country has been obscured by drifting fogs, which have nothing of the characteristics of our "old London particular" except density. The influence of a few hours' sunshine here is remarkable. We have had a few warm days only, and yet the soil, wherever a flower has a chance of springing up, pours forth multitudes of snowdrops, erucuses, and hyacinths. The Chersonese is covered with bulbous plants, some of great beauty, and the shrubs contain several rare species.—*March 1*.

It froze last night. The thermometer was at 24 deg. at two A.M., this morning, the wind strong and very cold. It is scarcely to be believed that, with all our immense stores of warm clothing, boots and shoes are by no means plentiful with the army.—*March 2*.

Bright moonlight night from nine P.M. till four this morning. Thermometer 28 deg., but no wind blowing and no severity of weather.—*March 3*.

THE TURKS AT EUPATORIA.

According to letters from Eupatoria of the 25th, the Russians were still in the neighbourhood of that seaport. It is supposed that they had sent for mortars to endeavour to shell the town. The Russian headquarters were still supposed to be at Oraz, and their cavalry videttes occupy, as before, the second line of tomuli, while those of the Turks hold the first. The defensive works were continued with the utmost vigour, and already the place had been rendered twice as strong as when the last attack was made.

Omar Pasha visits the piers every day himself, to see how the work is going on. The landing is carried on under the direction of Commander Hoseason, R.N., Lieutenant Ballard, of the Indian army (now attached to Omar Pasha), and Selim Bey (Major Kritzesko), and with the co-operation of the officers of the men-of-war now on the station. During the last week more than half-a-dozen vessels have been cleared out, so that to-day, for the first time, I think, since the main body of the expeditionary army has been arriving, the sailors have a day of rest on Sunday.

Among the late arrivals of cavalry is a batch of Bashi-Bazouks of the true stamp, mostly Kurds. They will, I hear, be soon followed by a larger body. The country, which we have before us is the beau-ideal of a country for Bashi-Bazouk warfare.

Our naval forces have likewise a new addition in the Dauntless, 40. Both she and the Curlew tried yesterday the range of their guns, in case their co-operation should be wanted in another attack. The result was very satisfactory, and I have no doubt that they will be of great use in checking the approach of the enemy.

The town has resumed its usual appearance. The shops which had been shut during the action, have been again re-opened, and are dispensing their contents.

As for the rations, the soldiers are admirably supplied. Biscuit, rice, kavurma (a kind of preserved meat), beans, and butter, are regularly distributed in full rations, as also wood and charcoal; so that the men are living better in the enemy's country than in their own. Omar Pasha has adopted the wise plan of serving the soldiers before everybody else. Omar Pasha was arming the Tartars with the weapons taken from the Russians. The Russian corps d'armée which attacked Eupatoria on the 17th had received reinforcements from Baktchi-Serai and Perekop, and, it was believed, was about to renew the attack.

THE VIENNA CONFERENCE.

The Congress met on Thursday. It will be remembered that the diplomats composing it are Lords John Russell and Westmorland, M. de Bourqueney,

M. de Buol and M. de Prokesch, Arif Pacha, M. de Titoff and Prince Gortschakoff.—Fuat Effendi, the second Turkish Plenipotentiary, has not arrived. The first act of the Congress was the exchange of powers; and, the necessary formalities having been fulfilled, no time appears to have been lost in proceeding at once to the business in hand. The Russian Ambassadors accepted verbally the four Conditions, and the interpretation which the Allies placed upon them. Their signature has not yet, however, been appended to them. This is explained by the fact that at congresses it is customary, after the conclusion of each day's labours, to draw up minutes; and, in later instances, to reduce them to the form of a protocol. One of the Plenipotentiaries is generally deputed by the rest to perform this office; and this mode of proceeding is, no doubt, the reason for the adjournment of the Congress over Friday to Saturday, in order that time may be given for the due elaboration of the protocol, which, on the reassembling of the Plenipotentiaries, it should be their first act to sign. At the meeting of the Conference the Minister of Prussia was not present.

VIENNA, MARCH 18.—A second meeting of the Conference took place yesterday. The first protocol was confirmed. It contains the interpretation of the Four Points as a general basis for negotiation. The Four Points will be discussed *seriatim*. Yesterday, the first point, which relates to the Principalities, formed the subject for deliberation. The discussion was adjourned. The progress is most favourable, and nothing can be more conciliatory than the spirit evinced by Prince Gortschakoff and M. de Titoff. Austria holds unflinchingly to the views of the Western Powers.—*Morning Chronicle*.

THE GERMAN POWERS.

At a recent meeting of the German Diet, Baron Prokesch-Osten presented an account of the state of the Austrian contingent, which he described as assembled and ready to take the field, "to cover the territories placed under the common protection of the Confederation," in virtue of its previous decisions. M. de Bismarck, the Prussian Minister, objected to this description of the use to be made of the troops, which he said were called out that they might protect Germany, and be "brought to bear on any quarter." Under these circumstances, the Austrian Government has upheld the view taken by its Minister, and has announced to the German States that it regards the Prussian declaration as inconsistent with the decisions of the Federation. M. de Bismarck has since been disavowed, and blamed by his Government.

As a sequel to the report that the Emperor Nicholas, in his last moments, instructed the Empress to tell her brother the King of Prussia that he wished him to retain his kind feelings towards Russia and not to forget the last advice of his father, this version of the advice itself has been published:—

"Beware, my dear Frederick, of that mania for innovations which has become so general; beware of those numerous theories actually existing, and which cannot be put into practice; but beware also of falling into another extreme, which might prove as fatal—I mean an exclusive predilection for ancient institutions. It is only by avoiding these two reefs that you can introduce really useful reforms. Remain, as far as possible, on good terms with the European Powers; above all things, may Prussia, Russia, and Austria, never be separated—their union is the safeguard of the peace of Europe."

When the King of Prussia received the telegraphic news of the death of his brother-in-law, he immediately sent back, as an answer, the following words from the Apocalypse, addressed to his sister, the Empress: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." This is probably the first time that the telegraph has been used—in Russia, at least—to convey scraps of Scripture.

The mission of Gen. Wedell is said to have completely failed. Prussia refuses to accede to the treaty with the Allies, and will not, therefore, be admitted to participate in the conferences.

The Prussian Government has abandoned the intention to propose, at the Frankfort Diet, to arm the federal fortresses which guard the Germanic territories on the side of France.

SCRAPS AND GOSSIP.

The thoughts of a summer in the Chersonese may make the boldest tremble, for the sun's rays will develop fever and pestilence out of the layers of animal matter festering below the surface of the soil as surely as they will ripen the ear or quicken the fruit for autumn.

In addition to our present stores, it is hoped that 30,000 shot and shell will be up at the front ere the 9th of next month.

Last night, in front, the Russians actually began to construct an advance from their new entrenchment at Malakhoff. This is "besieging" with a vengeance.

A merchant sailor, who was visiting a friend in one of the batteries on Sunday last, had his face greatly lacerated by the bursting of a shell from the Russians, as he was in the act of lighting his pipe.

The horses of the cavalry and artillery continue to suffer severely, notwithstanding the improvement of the weather. They are now nearly all in wooden sheds.

There are a good many merchant adventurers in harbour, who are sorely hunted about by the authorities. Admiral Boxer is very stingy about sea-room, and looks sharply after all strangers.

The French throw rockets of a new construction every night into Sebastopol. They seem to answer remarkably well, and are accurate in flight and long in range.

There prevails an earnest craving, an impatient, a morbid desire for spring, for dry roads and dry plains, for sunshine and warm air, and for operations which will give us a chance to repay the Russians for all we have been suffering for their dear sakes.

The *Times* correspondent speaks of the excitement that must be caused to the Cossack pickets in looking at a long line of black trucks rushing round and under the hill at Kadikoi, and running down the incline to the town at the rate of twenty miles an hour. A number of the Cossacks did gallop up to the top of the hill to look at a phenomenon of that kind, and they went capering about, and shaking their lances, in immense wonderment and excitation of spirits when it had disappeared.

These foragers [at Balaklava] are mostly females, and the most assiduous and successful among them, is a young girl, just emerging into womanhood, who every now and then appears amidst the ruins of her native town, and carries off some of the wrecks. She is an interesting creature even as a Russian Greek. Tall and slender, straight as an arrow, supple and quick in her movements, she is here, and there, and everywhere, displaying all the wariness and cunning of a child, who, from cares and trouble, has grown old before her time. That girl, gliding among the ruins of Balaklava, is a picture, and one that would make the fortune of an artist.

Lord Blantyre's ship chartered on philanthropic principles, has been given a most convenient and prominent berth; she consequently monopolises the whole of the trade, and sells at a price which makes professional traders' mouths water.—*Letter from Balaklava.*

The railway from Balaklava to Sebastopol would be finished by March 15th.

A French superior officer, in a letter to his brother, in addition to a request for various preserved meats and other necessaries, expressed a wish for a supply of garden seeds, such as salad and spinach, as he says the soil is rich, and he expects to have time to gather a crop previous to the conclusion of the campaign.

Sir George Brown seems to have recovered from the effects of his wound, but it is said he is rather nervous, and anxious and uneasy at night, should there be any firing close at hand. It is more likely that the gallant old General is determined that, so far as he is concerned, there shall be no repetition of the surprise at Inkermann.

Lieutenant-General Pennefather, C.B., has returned in good health from Malta, and has now resumed the command of the Second Division.

Foreign and Colonial.

RUSSIA.

The following addresses to the army appeared simultaneously with the manifesto of Alexander II. to the nation:—

I. "Valiant warriors, faithful defenders of the Church, the throne, and the country! It has pleased Almighty God to visit us with the most painful and grievous loss. We have all lost our common father and benefactor.

"In the midst of his unwearied care for Russia's prosperity and the glory of the Russian arms, the Emperor Nicholas Paulovitch, my most beloved father, has departed to eternal life.

"His last words were:—

"I thank the glorious, loyal Guards, who in 1825 saved Russia, and I also thank the brave army and fleet; I pray God to maintain, however, the courage and spirit by which they have distinguished themselves under me. So long as this spirit remains upheld, Russia's tranquillity is secured both within and without; then woe to her enemies! I loved them as my own children, and strove as much as I could to improve their condition. If I was not entirely successful in that respect, it was from no want of will, but because I was unable to devise anything better or to do more."

"May these ever-memorable words remain preserved in your hearts as a proof of his sincere love for you, which I share to the largest extent, and let them be a pledge of your devotion for me and Russia!"

"ALEXANDER.

"St. Petersburg, March 3, 1855."

II. "Brave warriors, courageous participants in the deeds of your supreme military chief, now sleeping in the Lord!"

"You have sealed in your hearts the last words of his tender and paternal love for you. As a mark of this love to the troops of the Guard, 1st corps of cadets, and the grenadier regiment of the generalissimo, Prince Suvarov (Suvarow), I present to the uniforms of his Majesty, those which the Emperor, your benefactor, designed himself to wear. Preserve this pledge, which I trust may remain among you sacred as a relic, and like an enduring memorial for future generations. Moreover, I ordain as follows:—

"1. In the companies and squadrons that have borne his Majesty's name, all the distinctive charges on the epaulettes and shoulder-knots shall retain the initial letter of the Emperor Nicholas I. so long as one of those, registered down to March 2, 1815, shall continue in the said companies and squadrons.

"2. Those also who were attached to his Majesty's person as generals or aides-de-camp general, or as aides-de-camp adlante, will retain the same initial."

"May the sacred memory of Nicholas I. survive amongst our ranks, as a terror to the foe and for the glory of Russia."

"ALEXANDER.

"St. Petersburg, March 3, 1855."

A telegraphic despatch, of the 10th inst., from St. Petersburg, announces the arrival of Prince Charles of Prussia, who was sent by our court to congratulate the new Czar on his accession to the throne. He was accompanied by the Grand-Duchess Alexandrine of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The Emperor Alexander and his brother, the Grand-Duke Constantine, both dressed in the Prussian uniform, received their relatives on the platform of the railroad terminus.

The *Invalid Russe* published a long account of the last moments of the late Emperor, which differs in some points from the accounts already published.

The *Journal de St. Petersburg* publishes various orders of the day and proclamations relative to the funeral ceremonies, and various appointments in the

army. It announces the recall of Prince Menschikoff on the ground of ill-health, and the appointment of Prince Gortschakoff to the Command-in-Chief of the Army of the South, of all the troops on land and sea in the Crimea, "with all the rights, powers, and prerogatives" of a commander-in-chief in time of war. General Lüders is placed under Prince Gortschakoff in the Crimea, with the rights of a commander of division in time of war.

A letter from Frankfort of the 14th inst. publishes some interesting details upon the reception given to the Ambassadors at St. Petersburg by the new Emperor, when they waited upon him to present their respects to him on his accession to the throne. It was on the 7th of March that the *corps diplomatique* waited upon the Emperor at the Imperial Winter Palace. The Emperor advanced into their midst, and in a firm and expressive voice first thanked them for the sympathy they had evinced on the occasion of the terrible calamity which had befallen Russia. He then said that in ascending the throne he was animated by the same sentiments as the Emperor Nicholas, his father, and the Emperor Alexander, his uncle. He added, that the views of his father were not always well understood, and that latterly wrong conceptions had been formed at times of his policy; that policy was a conservative policy. If the Holy Alliance, he said, no longer exists, I hope that the principle upon which it rested may still prevail and serve as a link of union between the different States. "For my part," he said, "I am disposed to give peace to Europe, if honourable conditions are offered to Russia; but if the conditions offered are not so, I prefer perishing to accepting them." After these words, His Majesty addressed himself successively to Count Esterhazy, the Austrian Minister, and M. de Werther, the Prussian Ambassador. He made a delicate allusion to the notification by which the Emperor of Austria perpetuates his father's name in an Austrian regiment, and spoke feelingly of the affection the King of Prussia had never ceased to show for the late Emperor. "Such (says the letter) is the substance of what passed. It is impossible for me to give the exact words, but I can guarantee the general truth of what I have written. This conversation and the manifesto are regarded as evincing firmness which does not exclude moderation."

Letters from Warsaw of the 11th inst. announce that the whole garrison had taken the solemn oath of allegiance to Alexander II., the troops being ordered out for parade for the purpose. A similar ceremony had taken place in all the garrisoned towns in Poland.

Private letters from St. Petersburg state that the Dowager Empress is very unwell. It is doubted whether the funeral of the Emperor Nicholas can take place as soon as the 11th.

The Grand-Dukes Michael and Nicholas left Sebastopol on the 13th, for St. Petersburg.

A nocturnal levy of recruits was made throughout Poland on the night of the 13th inst.

According to the accounts from Berlin, the proximate cause of the death of the Emperor Nicholas was the receipt of the telegraphic despatch announcing the defeat of the Russians at Eupatoria.

The disgrace of Prince Menschikoff is more complete than was signified in the first accounts from St. Petersburg, nor does it appear certain that it was the act of the late Czar. An order of the day, dated the 4th instant, removes him, under the form of accepting his resignation, not only from the command in the Crimea, but from the post of Chief of the Naval Staff, and from the Governor-Generalship of Finland. He retains only the titular appointments of Aide-de-camp General and Councillor of State.

EARTHQUAKE AT BROUSSA.

At the same moment that the first great shock was felt at Constantinople the old Asiatic city of Broussa was shaken to its foundations, and within a few seconds nearly 300 of the inhabitants were buried beneath the ruins of a part of the town. The shock appears to have lasted about three-quarters of a minute. The oscillations came from the south-east, and were of that quick, jerking nature, which causes such destruction. The city is partly surrounded by a wall, which dates from the time when the early Ottoman Sultans held their Court there, before Adrianople had been raised to an equality with the old capital. This wall appears to have been far from solid, and unfortunately a large number of the poorer population had fixed their houses against it for the purpose of support and shelter. The wall swayed to and fro for some seconds, as if shaken by the wind; at first only a few stones fell from the top or were dislodged wherever the old mortar had decayed or fallen out; but at the last great vibration, which preceded the cessation of the shock, a great part of the circuit fell flat, almost in a mass, and several score of houses were at once crushed, with their unfortunate inmates. There was scarcely an edifice in the town which was not more or less injured, but the houses of the wealthier inhabitants suffered comparatively little, and the loss of life has been almost entirely confined to the humbler class. The mosques, as usual, have suffered greatly, and there is said to be hardly a minaret standing in the whole city. Out of 125 mosques there is hardly one left untouched. One particularly, more than five centuries old, and the pride of the inhabitants, has been levelled to the ground. In a silk factory of the neighbourhood a fearful calamity occurred: the whole building fell flat, and sixty women who were at work were buried in the ruins. It is believed that they all perished.

AUSTRALIA.

The Australian mail reports all quiet in Australia. The "case" of the diggers had been so far recognised, that the Lieutenant-Governor had appointed a Commission to investigate the facts; a Committee appointed by the diggers sat with the Commissioners

to watch proceedings; and before this Commission several instances came out of indiscriminate violences committed by the troopers on the unoffending part of the population. It is evident that some of the men had joined in the outbreak lest they should be attacked and disarmed by the rioters; who were without either plan or efficient leaders. About half the number were Irish, with a strong infusion of foreigners. Letters from Ballarat, of the 24th December, mention that the Commissioners had just proceeded to Eureka.

THE CAPE—SHOCKING MASSACRE OF CAFFRES.

The recent arrivals bring no fresh news of the state of the British Caffre frontier. The Governor, Sir George Grey, visited Uitenhage and Port Elizabeth at the end of January. He was next expected at Graham's Town; and the inhabitants had prepared an address expressing their hope that he would mature the policy originated by Sir George Cathcart. The copper mining mania continued, and fresh companies appear still to be in course of concoction. From Natal the accounts mention that, owing to the withdrawal of steam communication, efforts were likely to be made to establish an overland post to Cape-town. The capabilities of the settlement for the growth of coffee and sugar are said to be confirmed by each experiment.

Interesting news arrives from the Transvaal Republic. The Caffres, under Makapan, had murdered Field Cornet Potgieter, and several men and women, with revolting cruelty. Pretorius collected 500 men and four guns, and hunted the Caffres to certain caverns, 2,000 feet in length, and from 300 to 500 feet wide. Not liking to venture an assault, he attempted, on the 30th October, to blast the rocks above, and so to crush the enemy. But this failed, owing to the loose nature of the soil. He then resolved on a blockade. On the 6th October, Commandant-General Potgieter was shot by the Caffres, and his body fell within the outer defences; but they were instantly stormed, and the body recovered. As the siege went on too slowly, he blocked up the openings of the caverns with loads of stones and trees, brought and thrown down by friendly Caffres, co-operating with the Dutch. This reduced the enemy to extremities. Day by day they died or were shot down. The women and children rushed out to get water, and many died drinking it. At length possession of a part of the caverns was obtained; and much of the property of the murdered men was recovered. But the stench rising from the dead Caffres—900 bodies were found—compelled the Dutch to raise the siege on the 21st November. Pretorius next led his men against another Caffre chief, Mapala, who fled at his approach. In the kraals, the remains of the murdered men were found cut up and roasted with fat! Mapala took a position where he could not be assailed. The Commando was out two months, and captured 3,300 head of cattle and 1,200 sheep and goats.

Another chief, Dushani, has been promptly punished in Natal, for some outrage, and compelled to pay a fine of 1,038 head of cattle. The *Natal Mercury* remarks that the thorough union between the Dutch and English had astonished the savages.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

The Committee of the Danish Volksting has presented to that assembly a bill impeaching the late Ministry for exceeding the budget. The King is convalescent, and no more bulletins will be issued.

The Tariff Bill has been defeated in the Senate of the United States.

Accounts from the Piraeus, of the 3rd, announce that M. Mayrocordato has tendered his resignation, which, it is said, has been accepted by King Otho. Turkish troops have been concentrated at Monastir.

The Queen of Spain has presented the Pope with six beautiful Andalusian horses.

The ministerial crisis in Belgium continues. M. de Theux, the leader of the Conservatives, declined, on Wednesday, the task of forming a Cabinet. King Leopold then sent for M. de Decker, who, on Thursday, had a two hours interview with his Majesty. M. de Decker requested permission to consult his political friends before giving an answer to the King.

Intelligence from Madrid, dated the 15th, stated that the proposition for a mixed Senate had been rejected by the Cortes—136 members voted against, and 69 for, the proposition.

The little daughter of the Empress of Austria bears the name of Sophia Frederica Dorothea Maria Josepha.

Count de Montalembert, the quondam advocate of despotic institutions, writes now to an Italian journal: "I confess that there is cause for discouragement, when the defence of Catholic truth, in the past and present, is delivered up to organs like the *Univers*. Catholic regeneration is in our day seriously compromised by that fanatical and servile school, which endeavours everywhere to identify itself with despotism! A formidable reaction is in preparation; but we must not be less remain faithful to our flag, which is that of justice, truth, and liberty."

It appears that Cardinal Wiseman has spoken in the highest terms to the Pope and others of Mr. Lucas. When this gentleman had an audience of his Holiness, he expressed his determination of leaving Ireland should his mission to Rome, for procuring the right of priests to appear actively in politics, fail. The Pope entreated him not to think of withdrawing his "powerful advocacy" from Ireland, whatever the decision may be.

The Pope and the Emperor of Austria have written letters of condolence to the King of Sardinia, on the occasion of his severe domestic trials.

There is every hope that the commercial codes both

of France and Austria will be revised, with a view to render an increased commercial intercourse with this country possible as soon as peace is restored.

The telegraphic summary of the contents of the Overland Mail arrived on Saturday from Trieste. The dates are—Bombay, February 17; Hong-Kong, January 22. “Dost Mahomed received the Governor-General’s letter with great respect; and has sent his son, the heir to his throne, to Peshawur, to negotiate an alliance. The official inauguration of the railway took place on the 3rd February, at Burdwan. The health of Lord Dalhousie is much shaken. In China much fighting had taken place between the Imperialists and the rebels near Canton. In the north of China the Imperialists have suffered serious reverses.”

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The electric telegraph was opened between Jassy and Czernowitz on the 26th February.

General La Marmora is reported to have named the 10th April as the day by which the Piedmontese contingent will set out for the Crimea. Three Russian vessels have been seized at Genoa.

The *Moniteur* announces that the northern army is now divided into two corps. The first commanded by General Baraguay d’Hilliers, with General Guillon as chief of the staff. The second is to be under the command of General Guesvilliers.

A letter from Marseilles of the 12th, says the death of the Emperor Nicholas has caused no relaxation here in the expediting of troops and military stores to the East. “On the contrary, there never was more activity displayed in that respect. The authorities here have received instructions to prepare for the reception of 50,000 men and 8,000 horses, which are to be shipped here and at Toulon for the Crimea. There appears to be no longer any doubt as to the Emperor’s departure for the East. A letter has been received here by the family of an officer serving in the steam corvette-of-war *Primauguet*, at present at Toulon, announcing that the captain had received orders to accompany the Imperial yacht *Reine Hortense* to Marseilles to receive the Emperor and a portion of the Imperial Guard by the 20th inst.”

The committee of the fund established in 1803, and known as *Lloyd’s Patriotic Fund*, have notified that, in consequence of the subscriptions under the Royal Patriotic Fund being limited to the relief of widows and orphans of those dying in active service during the present war, they have resolved to apply the means remaining in their hands to other classes of sufferers. They will therefore give gratuities to soldiers, seamen, and Marines disabled from wounds, and discharged the service in consequence, and also to such relatives (not widows or orphans) as depended for support on those killed in action. The total held by the committee is valued at about 88,000*l.*, subject to the payment of some annuities amounting to 1,600*l.* per annum. They have also certain rights of nomination to the Royal Naval Asylum and Schools.

Preparations are being made at Constantinople for the visit of Napoleon III.

The Patriotic Fund now reaches the sum of 1,000,000*l.* The last return from the Royal Commissioners was nearly 900,000*l.*, in which list of contributions were the following sums: 10,000*l.* from Leeds (first instalment), 5,000*l.* from Bombay (ditto), and 5,000*l.* from Calcutta (ditto). To this fund has yet to be added the City subscriptions from the different wards, &c., which at present exceed 90,000*l.*

The poor (and, with the exception of a few individuals, the Turks are all poor) are tried by scarcity and disease, and weighed down by a feeling of impending calamity. They expect little advantage to themselves or their nation from the struggle which is proceeding. Even the Christians are weary of the contention, to which they looked forward as the dawn of a brighter day. Many melancholy predictions have therefore been founded on the late occurrence, which is considered, if not a judgment, at least a warning.—*Times Correspondent at Constantinople.*

According to various accounts from Constantinople, Lord Redcliffe is very unwell.

The sick and wounded soldiers from the Crimea, who have died in Liverpool, are to be buried in one grave, over which a monument will be erected by public subscription.

It is stated, on Russian official authority, that from the 5th October to the 3rd December, the losses in the Crimea amounted to 19 officers killed and 131 wounded, 789 men killed and 2,934 wounded. But M. Kryloff, who drew up the report, confesses that it is impossible to make out a correct list of killed and wounded.

Count Zamoisky organises, at Schumla, a second regiment of Ottoman Cossacks, in which Poles will be incorporated.

A person high in office, who was recently asked whether he thought the Emperor Alexander was likely to consent to turn Sebastopol into a commercial port, indirectly replied by relating the following anecdote. In the year 1831, Louis Philippe sent Marshal Maison to St. Petersburg to intercede with the late Czar in favour of Poland. In the name of the French monarch, the military envoy strongly urged the Emperor to make certain concessions in favour of Poland: in short, to grant a kind of constitution to that kingdom. The countenance of the autocrat grew darker and darker as he listened, and as soon as the Ambassador had finished speaking he exclaimed, “Do you know what you demand of me, Marshal? It is to ——.” The monarch completed the sentence by passing his hand rapidly across his throat. The person who related the anecdote was evidently of opinion that the Emperor Alexander could not venture to raze Sebastopol, even if he should feel inclined to do so.

A body of 2,000 “navvies” is going out to the Crimea to do all that digging and trenching work, which, rough, as it may seem, requires as much apprenticeship as a soldier’s proper trade. The soldier,

for the future, is to be reserved as much as possible as the fighting man. These “navvies” are to be virtualised by contract; they take out their own houses, their own chief, Mr. Cochrane, who did most of the work of the Crystal Palace of Sydenham under the contractors.

The *Moniteur* announces the departure of eleven vessels of the Imperial navy from Algiers and Toulon, full of troops and ammunition, for the Crimea.

The memorial to Lord Palmerston praying for an armistice pending the peace negotiations now under discussion at Vienna, has received about 11,000 signatures in Manchester and Salford.

We are given to understand that private letters have been received from the Crimea from General H. Jones, in which the general of engineers who contributed to the fall of Bomarsund, describes the Russian army as in a most wretched condition, and speaks confidently of the prospects of taking Sebastopol by storm.—*Daily News.*

The Emperor of the French is represented as absolutely “possessed” by the idea of taking Sebastopol; and as incessantly studying the means, surrounded by charts, plans, and other accessories.

Accounts from Czernowitz, of the 16th, state that Russian preparations indicate an eventual evacuation of Bessarabia without a contest. Prince Gortschakoff has left for the Crimea, to take the supreme command.

Miscellaneous News.

The condemned convict, Munroe, who was found guilty at the Carlisle assizes of the murder of Mr. Turner, was executed on Tuesday.

The proceeds of a late reading of Mr. Macready in aid of the funds of Bradford Infirmary amounted to 109*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*

Six children were incautiously left by a miner in a room at Llanelli with a barrel of gunpowder. The children heated a poker, thrust it through the bung-hole, and blew the house up; killing two of themselves on the spot.

The Colosseum in the Regent’s Park, which is said to have cost 200,000*l.*, was put up for sale on Wednesday at the Auction Mart, by order of the Court of Chancery. But there was only one bid, 20,000*l.*, which was below the price fixed by the Court; so there was no sale.

Mr. Scholefield, the member for Birmingham, has given notice for the appointment of a select committee of the House of Commons, with a view to put down the adulteration of flour. Some cases of the kind have recently been discovered in the West Riding of Yorkshire, which have led to the conviction of several corn millers. In two cases the delinquents were fined 20*l.* and costs. It appears that the flour was adulterated with sulphuric acid and oxide of iron!

The widow of a coal porter has died at St. Saviour’s Workhouse, aged 103 years, “senile decay, chronic bronchitis.” The registrar observes:—“I believe there is no doubt that the age of this female has been stated correctly. She has been for many years an inmate of the workhouse. She was out for the day on a visit to a friend about a fortnight previous to her death. I have registered during the week the deaths of six persons who have died in St. Saviour’s Workhouse, whose united ages amount to 481 years.”

The *Cork Examiner* states that Mr. Grice Smith, of Castle Widewham, a gentleman of high position and large fortune, has been committed to gaol for a month, and sentenced to hard labour on the treadmill. The charge was that of having one night, in company with his brother and Mr. Humphrey Smyth, proprietor of Dunantown Mills, torn down the gates of several gentlemen, and wrenched off the knockers. The affair has created immense excitement in the neighbourhood, from the rank and position of the party on whom the degrading sentence has been passed.

On Tuesday the new cemetery for Marylebone, situate at East-end, Finchley, was consecrated by the Bishop of London. The ground (26 acres) was purchased under the provisions of the New Metropolitan Buildings Act. At some distance from the Episcopal church there is a Nonconformist chapel, with waiting-rooms, &c. The consecrated is divided from the unconsecrated ground by an ornamental post and chain fencing, with the Marylebone arms in relief on each post. The total expenditure in forming this cemetery, including the purchase of the land, will amount to 20,000*l.*

Mr. Carden has refused the terms upon which the Government offered to remit the remainder of his sentence, regarding the terms of the bond he was required to enter into as too stringent. It is thought that, should he persist in remaining in gaol, Mr. Carden’s life will be greatly imperilled. His health has already suffered very considerably since his confinement. Indeed, he has paid dearly for his attempt in many ways, for the blow of a heavy stone received by him on his head, on the occasion of the unhappy occurrence, has made him deaf for life. It is said that his remonstrances to the terms proposed are now under the consideration of Government.

A “National and Constitutional Association,” owing its existence to a series of articles in the *Morning Advertiser*, held its inaugural meeting at the London Tavern on Friday night. The object of the society is “to put an end to the oligarchical system, by which a few aristocratic families have monopolised all the leading offices in the State.” There is another class of men, however, who would effect this object in a summary fashion—the Chartist—and a mob, the most violent of that order, with Ernest Jones as fugleman, “invaded” the Tavern, kept the meeting in a state of indescribable uproar for some hours, and at last succeeded in carrying an amendment in favour of the Five Points. The *Advertiser*, nothing daunted,

suggests that for the future, admission be by ticket only.

South Wales has recently been visited by a gang of burglars, who have committed many daring depredations. Three burglaries were perpetrated in Carmarthen, last week, in one night. The houses of a tradesman, a commercial traveller, and a clergyman, were plundered. At Mr. Lewis’s they were disturbed: a sick lady was lying awake; a ruffian entered her room; she gave an alarm, and the burglars carried off less than they had intended. They appear to have previously visited the Reverend Mr. Williams’s, next door to Mr. Lewis’s; there they got much valuable plunder, but overlooked much more; they took silver from the pocket of Mr. Williams’s trousers by his bedside, but missed some gold: they regaled themselves before they departed. Not one of them has been taken; it is believed that they came from a distant part of the country.

The *Baltimore Republic* reports the following case of presentiment of the approach of death:—A few nights ago a little boy, of rare intelligence, named Fillmore, son of George Fisher, residing at Reisterstown, Baltimore County, about the midnight hour, awoke his mother, and informed her that he was going to die. He told his father the same thing, and when told that he was dreaming, replied that he was awake, and knew he was going to die. The parents thought nothing more about it, and the child slept comfortably until morning. When he awoke in the morning, he repeated his presentiments to his parents; and as soon as breakfast was over he insisted on being allowed to go and tell Mrs. Walters, a neighbour, that he was going to die. His mother told him he had better go and see his grandmother, if he was going to die. He made a visit to his grandmother, and also to Mrs. Walters, after which he returned to his home. During the afternoon of the same day, his mother was called out of the house for a few minutes, and when she returned she found the little fellow awfully burned by his clothes having taken fire. As soon as the fire was extinguished he said to his mother, “I told you I was going to die.” A physician was called in, who dressed his injuries, telling him that he would soon be well. He said, “No; Fillmore is going to die!” and during the night the little boy breathed his last.

The annual general meeting of the Royal Literary Fund Society was held on Wednesday, in the Society’s Rooms, Great Russell-street; Sir Robert Inglis in the chair. When the usual vote of thanks to the auditors was moved, Mr. Dilke made some remarks on the management of the society, which he contrasted with that of the Artists’ General Benevolent Fund. The charge in ten years for relieving 429 applicants by the Literary Fund was 5,094*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*; or 11*l.* 1*s.* for every draught drawn by the society for the benefit of an applicant. The charge for relieving 559 applicants by the Artists’ Fund was 904*l.* 17*s.* 1*d.* He therefore moved, as an amendment to the vote of thanks, that “the expenses of managing the Literary Fund are unreasonable and enormous, and a great change must be made in the administration of its affairs.” On a division, the amendment was negatived by 32 to 28. Mr. Dilke then expressed an opinion that the offices of the society should be filled by distinguished literary men; and he moved that Mr. Hallam should be selected to fill the office of President, now filled by the Marquis of Lansdowne. Dr. Milman argued, that the administration of the Society should not be limited to those who have actually published books, but should include those who are the magnificent, consistent, and honourable patrons of literature. A ballot was then taken; and while the officers were counting the votes for the President, Mr. Charles Dickens moved that a committee should be appointed to consider the desirability of applying for a new charter, or act of Parliament. Mr. John Forster seconded the motion, and it was carried unanimously. Mr. Dilke then withdrew his motion respecting the President; and the meeting separated.

The Temperance question is still considerably agitated in the provinces. At a crowded public meeting assembled in the New-hall, Leicester, on Wednesday evening last, a resolution antagonistic to the views of the Sunday closing party was carried by a large majority.—Upwards of 4,000 signatures have been obtained in Sunderland, to a petition to Parliament against the Sunday Beer Bill.—A second meeting has been held at Sheffield to petition Parliament in favour of a Maine Liquor Law for England. After one or two speakers on each side of the question, and amid more or less interruption, had expressed their views, the meeting became a perfect Babel of confusion. The disputatious spirit in the meeting raged so high that one or two pugilistic encounters were commenced and partially fought out, but were stopped before either combatant could claim the victory. Amid the tumult, a motion that the meeting should dissolve was carried almost unanimously, a result which elicited loud cheers from the “beer party.”—Dr. Lees, a zealous advocate of the Maine Liquor Law, visited Exeter on Tuesday for the purpose of holding a public meeting in connexion with the suppression of the liquor traffic. Placards were issued by the oppositionists, and a very crowded meeting was the result. Dr. Lees spoke for some time without interruption, but having made some allusion to the Secretary of the Local Licensed Victuallers’ Association, the meeting became most uproarious; hisses, cockerowing, and other discordant noises, drowned the speaker’s voice; seats were broken, gas-lamps smashed, and several pugilistic encounters seemed imminent, when the chairman dissolved the meeting, and Dr. Lees had to make the best of his way home for fear of a mobbing. The affair has caused much excitement in the city.

ENGLISH HOMEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 16th, this association met in large numbers at the Freemasons' Tavern. A letter was read from Lord Robert Grosvenor, stating his inability to attend. Dr. Epps was called to the chair, and the subjoined report was read:—

REPORT OF THE ENGLISH HOMEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1854-5.

"The circumstances connected with homoeopathy during the past year, although full of interest, have not been of such a nature as to call forth any special activity on the part of the association. During the last few weeks, however, matters have transpired that necessitate action. The sad and disastrous results connected with the presence of the British army in the Crimea, have demonstrated many important truths. One truth, which has a relation to the objects of the association, is the total inefficiency of the medical treatment adopted by the practitioners in attendance upon the army. The deaths from wounds, from diarrhoea and dysentery, are terribly numerous; a result, dependent upon the absence of those remedies which would, if used, effectively cure these injuries and these diseases.

"No doubt can exist that had arnica been used, the fatality from wounds would have been much lessened; and so, in reference to the diarrhoea and the dysentery, had the proper homoeopathic remedies been employed.

"One of the members of the committee of the Association felt how beneficial it would be to bring into use for the wounded the remedy, arnica. This conviction induced him to put himself in communication with the late Minister of War, the Duke of Newcastle, and the following correspondence was the result:—

"89, Great Russell-street, Dec. 20, 1854.
"My Lord Duke,—It is in your official capacity I trouble you. The value of arnica in cases of wounds, cuts, and other injuries from mechanical causes is established. No doubt can exist that, with the aid of Arnica, a wound of the severest kind can be cured in less than one-half the time required to effect a cure without such aid. How important, then, that our brave troops should be supplied with this valuable remedial agent, and thus more quickly when wounded be freed from the results of such wounds, and be sooner restored to their position in the ranks.

"Knowing from long experience the value of arnica, I have taken the liberty to enclose you a tract on the subject, hoping that the subject will occupy your Grace's attention, being certain that it is well worthy of occupying that attention, although thousands of matters must now be appealing to the same.

"I have the honour to remain,

"Your Grace's obedient servant,

"JOHN EPPS, M.D."

"His Grace, through his Secretary, favoured Dr. E. with the following note:—

"War Department, Dec. 22, 1854.

"Sir,—I am desired by the Duke of Newcastle to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, and to refer you to Dr. Andrew Smith, St. James's-place, Director-General of the Medical Department.

"I have the honour to be, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"R. R. P. CLINTON."

"John Epps, Esq., M.D."

"Dr. E., at the earliest opportunity permitted by his duties, forwarded a copy of the tract, already referred to, to Dr. Andrew Smith, with the following note:—

"January 1, 1855.

"Dr. Epps presents his best wishes to Dr. Andrew Smith, and encloses a copy of a little treatise, which he recommends to Dr. Smith's attention. Dr. E. has forwarded one to the Duke of Newcastle. He believes that the use of arnica would be a means of saving many valuable lives, and would, further, restore the wounded very speedily to their duties. On these grounds, and not with any view to press his views on the attention either of Dr. A. Smith or of the Duke of Newcastle, he has forwarded the enclosed, believing it to be his duty to render any aid that his experience may have presented to him, and believing, further, that it is the duty of Dr. A. Smith and of the Minister of War to hail any means by which the sufferings incidental to a state of warfare can be mitigated and be deprived of a great extent of their danger."

"Subsequently a lady, who having experienced the benefits of homoeopathy, felt deeply interested that the poor soldiers should derive some of the benefits derivable from the homoeopathic mode of treatment, addressed a petition to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen,† praying that the troops of Her Majesty might have the benefits arising from the use of arnica.

"The idea thus put forth, Dr. Epps took up, and sought to interest others in the matter, and subscriptions, to the amount of 50*l.* and upwards, have been already received; these subscriptions having as their end the sending out a medical gentleman to the Crimea, who might treat cases which other medical men would not treat (and there are many such), or application might be made that a portion of any hospital that the Government might establish, might be set apart for the reception of those who prefer homoeopathic treatment.

"To make this application with success it is essential that the advocates of homoeopathy should be able to state that they will supply the means of sending out and keeping such medical practitioner; to do this a sum of 300*l.* is required. It is, therefore, deemed advisable at once to set about raising this sum, and it is hoped that the members of this Association will effectively aid in this matter, recognising this, that immediate action is necessary.

"In addition to this effort to raise the 300*l.* it is desirable to employ another means—by the political Constitution of this country entrusted to all the subjects of Her Majesty the Queen—namely, petitioning the House of Commons to take such steps as in its wisdom may be best

* To this letter Dr. Andrew Smith replied, stating that he had forwarded the pamphlet to the medical officer at Scutari.

† Lord Palmerston communicated with this lady to the following effect:—

"Whitehall, Feb. 2, 1855.

"Madam,—I am directed by Viscount Palmerston to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st, and to inform you that his lordship had the honour to lay before the Queen your petition, recommending that medical men should be sent to the Crimea with a supply of arnica and aconite.

"I am, Madam, your obedient servant,

"H. WARDINSON.

"Mrs. E. Tempney, North End, Croydon."

suit to realise to the soldiers in the Crimea the benefits derivable from homoeopathic treatment. With this view the following petition has been drawn up and extensively circulated, and will be presented for the approval of this meeting:—

"To the Honourable the House of Commons of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

"The petition of the undersigned, members of the English Homeopathic Association and others, humbly sheweth:—

"That your petitioners are convinced that the use of arnica is highly effective in the cure of wounds; that persons treated with this remedy will recover from injuries in a time considerably less than that required for cure under the employment of the usual means.

"That the troops of this nation, engaged in the war, have a right to demand of their countrymen an ample supply, and a skilful application of a remedy which will enable them, when wounded, to obtain the most speedy relief from their sufferings.

"That as the chief superiority in the enemy with whom war is waged, is numerical, the speedy cure of the wounded among the troops of this nation becomes a matter of the greatest importance, inasmuch as thus that superiority will be in part counterbalanced.

"That on the first ground, sympathy, and the second ground, necessity, your petitioners believe it to be the duty of the Government of this country to cause the use of arnica for the cure of the wounded.

"Your petitioners therefore pray your Honourable House to address Her Most Gracious Majesty, to issue such royal commands as will realise the object sought, by the treatment of the wounded by this remedial means.

"That your petitioners know that it is usual and also proper to allow the medical department of the army to select their own means, and that any interference with such routine is justifiable only under special circumstances; such, as your petitioners believe, present themselves in relation to the present matter; and your petitioners feel, that this interference must be made, because past experience in reference to the treatment of the sick and wounded in this war has established this, that the officials of the army have been such sticklers for routine as to allow the most flagrant absurdities and cruelties to be perpetrated rather than deviate from routineism, and have shown that the official mind will not recognise, as Milton states, any light that has come through any means but its own.

"And your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray, &c."

"Whether or not success attend the petition of this Association, there can be no doubt that the agitation of the matter will produce an effect, and the friends of homoeopathy, in using a means which the Constitution of their country presents to them, will have, whatever be the result, the satisfaction of having done their duty.

"To turn to another subject, the committee of the English Homeopathic Association, although not desirous of immediately commencing an hospital in the metropolis for the treatment of patients on the homoeopathic principle, think that it is desirable to form a nucleus of a fund for such purpose. The failure of the Hahnemann Hospital has shown, what many who disapproved of its being opened at the time it was, and yet who aided it most liberally when it was opened, that it would be better to wait till the number of adherents to homoeopathy is such as to put an end to those littlenesses which are made to disappear in a large co-operation. Still, it happens, that many having derived benefit from the homoeopathic treatment, feel desirous to impart to others the same benefit, and such persons would subscribe to a fund formed for the purpose of founding an hospital, in accordance with the homoeopathic law, and based on the basis of admitting, as eligible for its officers, all qualified homoeopathic practitioners.

"To form this nucleus the committee think that it will be advisable to appoint Trustees to receive any moneys, which the benevolent may be willing to bestow, and they recommend to this meeting that the following gentlemen be the Trustees:—

"John Brewer, Esq., East Smithfield; Rev. C. H. Wainwright, Burton-on-Trent; and John Epps, Esq., M.D., 89, Great Russell-street.

"In regard to the pecuniary prospects of the association, the auditors' report shows, that since the last meeting of the association the sum of 62*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* has been received, and that debts to the amount of 92*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* have been paid. This sum embraces the debt remaining to the printer, which has been paid by Dr. Epps.

"The committee cannot conclude their report without expressing their congratulations at the rapid progress which homoeopathy has made since the last meeting of the association. Homoeopathy has become a great fact, and if still subject to vituperation, it is the vituperation of the vulgar of the professional and non-professional public.

"The committee conclude with expressing their hope, that the funds may be such as to justify them in publishing a monthly report to be supplied to the members, which will present the various matters of interest which are continually developing themselves in relation to homoeopathy.

"With these objects in view, they call upon the members of the association to obtain as many members as they can for the association."

The Rev. C. H. WAINWRIGHT, of Trinity College, Cambridge, moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by ROBERT DICK, Esq., and carried unanimously.

Dr. EPPS observed that, in soliciting the support of this meeting to the prayer of the petition, we solicit the foes of homoeopathy to subject homoeopathy to a test. The attempt is bold. Are we certain of success? If failure occurs, the cause of homoeopathy must be injured. If there is any ground for doubt, caution forbids any hasty movement. But there is no cause for doubt. Our own experience guarantees the efficacy of arnica in wounds and mechanical injuries generally; and, therefore, we may boldly infer, that success must attend its employment among the wounded troops in the Crimea. But, even if there was not this experience, we might be certain of success, knowing, first, that the law put forth by the illustrious Hahnemann, "Likes are cured by likes," is a law of the Creator; and, secondly, that arnica, when tried on the healthy, produces effects similar to those which are produced by mechanical injuries; and therefore must cure. Such is the scientific precision connected with homoeopathy; a precision special to it, and to which allopathy has no claim; and this, because, while the practice of homoeopathy is based on a law, the practice of allopathy

is unblessed with any such basis. I may be permitted to illustrate this claim of homoeopathy to be the scientific, and, consequently, the certain system of medicine.

As based on the law, "Likes are cured by likes," homoeopathy enables its disciple to treat with certainty diseases which are new to him. Let him first obtain an accurate portrait of the disease, and then find a remedy, which, having been tried upon the healthy, has produced effects similar to those present in the disease, and the application of this remedy must, and will, cure the disease. Does allopathy show itself thus scientific, precise, and sure? No; allopathy says, "Try that remedy, and if it does not succeed, try this; which is empiricism, or, to use the language of the allopathists, "quackery." But this matter has been so forcibly painted by Dr. Metcalf, of New York, that I adopt his words:—"The cholera, for the first time within authentic records of history, has broken from its native jungles of the Ganges, and with steady stride, from day to day, approaches the confines of Eastern Europe. Terror and dismay precede it, and its course is marked by heaps of blue and ghastly corpses. The nations of Europe begin to tremble at its anticipated approach, and with puny efforts set up their sanitary cordons and quarantines, as though the pestilence travelled in a coach-and-four and upon the solid ground, and not upon the viewless wings of the air. Born in the pestilential heats of the tropics, it seems to revel in the fiery temperature of India, and to rage with equal fierceness in the frosts of a Russian winter. No precautions can escape it, no travel avoid, no constitution resist, no prescription cure its fierce attack. The resources of the medical science of Europe are deployed in anticipation, but the confused and turbulent medley of cries that arises from the theorising phalanx gives no promise of healing virtue in its sound, and the onset of the destroyer is awaited in despair. But, unknown to the world, there is hope. In a little chamber, in a small town of Central Germany, sits a grey-haired old man, unknown to fame. The cholera has not yet reached his land; he has seen no case of it; but he is intently perusing the descriptions of the disease as given by those who were eye-witnesses of its deadly march, and ever and anon comparing it with a pile of manuscript that lies before him; he works steadily on, and a gleam of quiet exultation lights up his noble features as he takes a pen and writes three words only—Camphor, Copper, Hellebore. Out of the realms of nature, without ever having seen the disease, he has selected these three substances as the remedies to subdue its power. And experience confirms the choice! In the presence of these three, as it were controlling powers, the pestilence has lost its sway; it yields gently, kindly, and rapidly; the most opposite theorists, the most varied minds, the most prejudiced observers, in the most widely-separated lands, all concur in bearing unanimous testimony to the efficacy of the remedies of the old man's choice." Our experience in this country in the treatment of cholera, testifies, in its results, to the accuracy of Hahnemann's deduction. And allopathy, that calls homoeopathy "humbug," "quackery," what does it do in this matter? Hear Dr. Bushman, an allopathic physician, himself an abuser of homoeopathy:—

Let us pass in review these remedies, so as to obtain, as it were, a bird's-eye view of them. They defy classification. Omitting, for the moment, the complex methods by which cholera was to be vanquished, what were the simple specifics that were to cure, infallibly cure, the fearful enemy?

Water of every temperature, "Wrap the cholera patient in a cold sheet," says one. "Dash cold water repeatedly over the sheet in which he is enveloped," says a second. "Ply him well with cold water internally," says a third. "Freeze him; cool his blood to 30 degrees below zero," adds a fourth. "Fools that ye are," exclaims a fifth, "thus to treat the half-dead with cholera—I say, wrap him in sheets soaked in boiling water; and having thus half-cooked the shivering wretch, conclude the process by placing him over the boiler of a steam-engine."

There are cramps present, which cause much suffering, and therefore are they the symptoms especially to be treated. Chloroform annihilates pain—let him breathe chloroform.

"He is cold and depressed—what so natural as to stimulate?" The wisdom of the proposal is proved by the numbers who recommend its adoption—the folly of the many is manifested by the proportion who die under the use of stimulants.

"Give him alkalies," vociferates one man. "Nay," says another, "lemon-juice and acids are the true remedies."

"It is simply a stage of intermittent fever," maintain some; "therefore," they add, "the drug for its prevention and its cure is quinine." "Not half potent enough," whispers a supporter of the same theory, "give him arsenic."

Opium in one man's mind is a specific in small doses—the twentieth of a grain frequently repeated. "Nonsense," says another, "opium is a specific, but let it be given in doses of from six to twelve grains." The latter has one advantage; if the power of absorption yet remains to the stomach, the patient will assuredly be saved all further pain, and, if he be a good man, mercifully provided for in a better world. However, as the duty of the doctor is to keep men here, and not to hurry them off this world, we suppose twelve-grain doses of opium will not be very extensively recommended by the profession.

"Calomel is the specific that will stay every symptom of the whooping-cough, bring back the absent pulse, restore the genial warmth of the ley skin, bid bloom again the leaden cheek; give it, then, freely, in large doses—give twenty or thirty grains and see its magical effects." "Do so," says an equally devoted admirer of calomel, "and you will give the last blow to the dying wretch. Calomel is the remedy, but it must be insinuated into the system in small doses, frequently repeated." "Bah!" replies the first, "if you follow this man's whim, the patient will slip through your fingers."

Another quotation from Dr. Metcalf in relation to Hahnemann:—

Yet once more. A warlike encampment appears in that blood-stained battle-ground of Europe, Central Germany. Excess, riot, intemperance, filth, and the closeness of a crowded camp, have bred a pestilential fever; the hospitals are full, and yet the sick abound, and the dead cannot be removed in time to make way for new candidates for a similar place and a similar removal. In the midst of the dead and dying we behold the same benevolent figure that we saw before, his back slightly stooping from age, and the grey hair streaming around his venerable temples. He examines the sick with great care and minuteness, passes from one to another, gathering with earnest attention the various symptoms, and after a day spent in this toil, reaches his home in deep thought. His books and manuscripts are referred to for a moment, and his figure appears to expand, as with one hand he seems to reach to a neighbouring hedge and pluck thence a bryony vine, while with the other he stretches across the broad Atlantic to the forests of the New World to obtain the poison ivy. These he declares to be the remedies for the fever he had witnessed, and

"As the bright sun compacts the precious stone," so the light from the multiplied experience of nearly half a century, far from weakening his assertion, has compacted it into the strength and solidity of adamant.

The results, cures, proves his deduction. To add another instance, if it may be permitted "to compare small things with great," a friend of mine who sends his ships to the African coasts, and to whom it is of the highest importance, in order to his obtaining a speedy return of his ships, to preserve the lives of his sailors from the effects of African fever and dysentery,

applied to me, years since, to help him in this matter. I told him that I had never seen African fever and dysentery, but, if he would give me an accurate description of the disease, I would willingly direct what must, in accordance with the homœopathic law, be the cures. He did so; I prescribed the medicines to be taken, and my friend's sailors have been protected and preserved. Such is the certainty which attends homœopathic practice—a certainty which may cause us to be willing, without any hesitation, to give our support to the proposed petition demanding that arnica shall be sent out to our troops in the Crimea. I therefore call upon you to sign and support the petition, and to get others to sign it. I am happy to state that already nearly a thousand signatures have been received from clergymen, from landed proprietors, from magistrates, from honourables, from medical men, from bankers, from tradesmen, from working people, in Kent, Warwickshire, Surrey, Suffolk, Yorkshire, Northampton, Godmanchester, Huntingdon, Basingstoke, Durham, Dorchester, Bucks, Devonshire, and from London and its suburbs; and, were the time not pressing, thousands more names might be obtained of people knowing the beneficial effects of arnica. Here let me remark, that it is the duty of everyone to sign the petition who has known arnica to be useful. People are apt to neglect the duty, and to ask, "What is the use of signing?" The question should be, "What is my duty? Providence has, by placing me in this country, given me, as a British citizen, the right of petitioning Parliament; and I am bound to exercise that talent; what may be the result is not in me to decide." The duty neglected is like that represented in the Scripture parable, in putting by the talent in a napkin. The talent put by produced no interest. As a great Reformer said, "Petition, petition, petition." You create thereby a public parliamentary opinion. You cause an agitation, and it will be found, as it was found of old of those who were plunged in the water of the pool of Bethesda, and of whom those only were healed who were so plunged *after the stirring of the waters* by the angel that, in the agitation produced by the conflict of opinion, truth will come out, and homœopathy with its healing power will demonstrate itself. On these grounds I most earnestly recommend to notice this Association, which enables us to realize the development in practical agency, of this public opinion. Hahnemann has made a revelation of the great truth, "like are cured by likes,"—a truth written by the Creator on the pages of Creation, and this truth we must spread. We have missionary societies, tract societies, and associations for distributing the glorious truths of one higher Revelation, in relation to man's moral necessities; so we must have associations, such as the English Homœopathic, to diffuse this revelation in relation to man's bodily necessities. Medical men who advocate homœopathy have to fight hard battles: they ought to be supported. They have to stand at the bedside, where they require all their faculties in a state of the most perfect quietude to enable them to exercise their judgment for the cure of the patient, and therefore they need the steady support of a homœopathic public to meet the intrusive advice of friends, who kindly announce that, if the patient dies, he will be murdered by homœopathy; to meet the venomous eye of the vulgar (for there are gentlemen of the profession) medical practitioners, who are waiting with coroner's warrants to inquire into the causes of deaths occurring under the hands of homœopathists, forgetting the hundreds who die by the same diseases under *their* hands. Only a week or so since, a surgeon in some northern county had, in endeavouring to injure the cause of homœopathy, declared in a coroner's court that the homœopathist had given poisons; this innocent being apparently unaware that all medicines are medicines *because* they are poisons; and another medical man in the same court declared, in equal innocence, that many practitioners did not consider calomel a poison. To meet such foes—and it is a degradation to the times in which we live that there should be such foes to cope with—the public must lend their aid; must say that the good old Saxon courts of this country—and the coroner's is one—shall not be brought into disrepute by making them places for testing the amount of animosity that partisanship can develop in men whose loud cry seems to be identical in origin with that caused, a few centuries ago, hundreds to cry out lustily, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians." To conclude: homœopathy has progressed in spite of all opposition; it has already stood longer than any other special theory of the medical system—it has now existed upwards of half a century; it has been blown upon by the winds of prejudice, but like as the tree growing on some rocky height, when the winds of heaven play on its branches, in a ratio corresponding sends down its fibres to penetrate into every crevice and cranny, holding firmer and firmer—so homœopathy has taken daily a stronger hold. There is one probative evidence of the progress of homœopathy that particularly recommends itself. This is the fact, that insurance companies which a few years ago pooh-poohed homœopathically-treated individuals, now take their lives. Indeed, I hold in my hand three letters received within the last few weeks from insurance companies, in which they propose to take up specially homœopathy in connexion with life insurance. These insurance companies view all questions purely as commercial transactions; they look to the making of money; they find that homœopathy is getting strong, and they think that being strong, the golden milk can be drawn; and hence, to quote an old German adage, "They pat the cow that gives them butter."

After the election of the committee for the current year, JOSEPH GLOVER, Esq., rose to propose the next resolution—

That this meeting express its regret that the numerous duties of their President, Lord Robert Grosvenor, M.P., prevent him continuing as the President; that this meeting thank him for his services already rendered, and that the committee be authorised to select some gentleman as President, and also as Treasurer, in the place of T. S. Johnston, Esq., who has so kindly fulfilled the duties for so many years.

This resolution was seconded by ROBERT FRITH, Esq., M.R.C.S., and was supported by Dr. CHAPMAN, M.A., of Trinity College, who stated that he was sure the association would cordially concur in the expression of regret that Lord Robert Grosvenor had retired from his office as their president. But he knew that, though the noble lord may have been compelled, from his parliamentary and other occupations, to withdraw from them, he was still a worker in the cause of homœopathy, and would, no doubt, continue

to be so to the last. He was at present engaged in an important movement—a deputation to the War Minister with a memorial praying that a homœopathic medical staff should be allowed to attend a portion of the sick and suffering of the British army at Scutari, Smyrna, or at whatever other place hospitals may be provided. Dr. Chapman believed that the War Minister would refer the memorial to Dr. Andrew Smith, the head of the medical department of the army, who would pay no attention to it; but that measure failing, the Houses of Parliament should be memorialised; and that attempt, too, failing, the Queen in Council should be appealed to. It was an affair of public interest and welfare, and the pressure from without should be brought to bear on the absurd, perverse, and fatal system of *routineism*, to which had been due such "horrible and heart-rending sufferings," and such serious disasters. This pressure from without was to be made in the form of a monster petition, with a multitude of names attached to it. He did not think, when compared with the progress it had made in the United States, that homœopathy had advanced to such a degree as it should have done in England; but in this country progress was sure, however slow it may be. It had, however, been very great, and the homœopathists had reason to be thankful. It had been objected lately to the success of this method of practice, that the late Autoocrat of Russia had died under the treatment of a homœopathic practitioner. As that potentate, however, whatever his faults may have been, was a sagacious man, with a vast intellect, his having been for years under homœopathic treatment was a signal testimony in favour of homœopathy. It was well known that other imperial and royal personages, and many of the illustrious of the world, had been so treated. But Dr. C. considered that homœopathy was a theory for the masses, for all mankind, and that the lives of the poor—the multitude—were of more consequence to their families and nations than those of the comparatively few in eminent position. Those who favoured it should consider, not only the present, but future generations; for it might freely be concluded, that many, if not all of the so-called inherited diseases, might, by homœopathic treatment commenced from infancy and continued through life, after some or many generations, be expunged from the nosology. He had no sympathy with the members of the Peace Society, for, while men continued to be what they are, war must be; though every believer looked with a confident hope for the time when wars should cease from the earth—but then the character of mankind would be changed. It was, meanwhile, the duty of all to humanise men; and this was to be done by a proper education, physical, moral, and spiritual. Our business now was with our suffering soldiers. It was to be remarked that the deaths of officers from disease, in the Crimea, have no proportion to those of soldiers. In addition to the obvious advantages they had, they also had the privilege, which the soldiers had not, of treating themselves, and many of them were known to have so treated themselves homœopathically, whether in the way of prophylactics or of cure. As the soldiers would have plenty of leisure while in hospital, or in the state of convalescence, he recommended that many copies of some well-chosen and popular books of homœopathy should be sent out for their perusal. The homœopathists were bound to use all the means in their power to forward, in whatever way they could, the beneficial medical reform of which they were the conscientious advocates.

W. A. CASE, Esq., M.A., of the University of London, then proposed the next resolution—

That the petition read be approved, and the committee be authorised to take the necessary steps to give it efficiency.

Dr. EPES then rose, and made a few remarks in relation to the question under examination.

The thanks of the meeting were then given to S. R. Bardouleau, Esq., for his services as honorary secretary; and, after thanks to the chairman, the meeting, apparently highly gratified, dispersed.

Literature.

Memoirs of the Life and Writings of James Montgomery; including Selections from his Correspondence, Remains in Prose and Verse, and Conversations on Various Subjects. By JOHN HOLLAND and JAMES EVERETT. Vols. I. and II. London: Longman and Co.

A GREAT many of the particulars of James Montgomery's life have been long known to the public, from the autobiographical matter affixed to the complete edition of his poetical works, and from frequent sketches of so favourite a poet which have appeared in publications of a more or less permanent character. Yet, undoubtedly, the whole English world expected and desired memoirs of his life; for he has a place as a poet which is accorded to him by common consent—not, indeed, as the author of any great poem, but as a genuine poet, nevertheless—having, as Southey said, "a true vein of his own," and writing always with bright imaginativeness, real passion, and ardent devotion, somewhat tinged with melancholy. The

"religious world," still more, will have desired these memorials of one whom it has delighted to honour beyond all "poets of the sanctuary"; though, for ourselves, we must dissent from the admiration popularly accorded to Mr. Montgomery's hymns. With George Gilfillan's abuse of them we do not sympathise; but we protest that, after having had occasion carefully and critically to examine them all, we could find but four of very superior excellence. We would apply to Montgomery the words he himself spoke, as these volumes record,

of Charles Wesley: "He was very unequal; for while he strikingly excelled in some, he was slovenly in other, of his compositions. He published too many hymns; he would have been more successful if he had been more sparing." But Montgomery's claims as a sacred poet do not rest only on his hymns, but on the spirit and character of his entire works, in which there is more good and genuine religious poetry than in any writer since Cowper. Of those works, some of his minor pieces are the best. "The Grave," "The Common Lot," "Night," and a few besides, in "his own true vein," greatly surpass in merit his longer poems. In "The Wanderer of Switzerland," "The World before the Flood," and "The Pelican Island," alike, it seems to us that the poet had very unfortunate subjects. They have no unity of interest, and admit only a discursive treatment: while the selection of such subjects is against the author's own opinion (in which he has agreed with Coleridge), that a poet is most powerful and interesting on themes that permit the most natural expression of his own experience and knowledge of life. It is true that there are exquisite passages in these poems, especially of minute and delicate description; but, as wholes, none of them is great or even very interesting.

Although, then, we heartily and admiringly concede Montgomery's claim to a full biography, we are unable to assign him that position which the authors of these volumes appear to give him; or to think that it was desirable, or will be generally agreeable to the public, that the story of his life (not very remarkable or rich in incident, but for the imprisonments, which every one knows everything about) should be extended through some four volumes, as we suppose will be the case, seeing that these two stop in the middle. The biographers overrate both the man and his relations to his time. And—that we may at once get rid of all that it is unpleasant to say—let us add, that Mr. Holland, the responsible editor, errs in writing too much of his own, in making far too copious extracts from Montgomery's *Iris* articles and *Eclectic* reviews, and in reporting conversations, primly and prosily, in which *not* the poet, but "Holland" and "Everett," have vastly the largest share. We have been so much interested in the volumes, and do so heartily like their spirit and tone, and do so sincerely thank Mr. Holland for his loving labours for the honour of the poet's memory, that only a strong sense of the danger in which the book is thus placed could have induced us to make these remarks.

The chief interest of these volumes attaches to their delineation of the poet's early life. James Montgomery was the second of the four children of the Rev. John Montgomery, a minister of the Moravian Church at Irvine, in Ayrshire. His parents previously resided at the settlement of the brethren at Grace-hill, Ballymena, in Ireland, whence they removed to Scotland, so shortly before the 4th November, 1771—on which day the future poet was born—that he was accustomed to say that he "barely escaped being an Irishman." When four years old, he was taken by his parents again to Ireland, and remained there till he was six; receiving the rudiments of education from "Jemmy M'Caffery," the village schoolmaster—the Moravians not then having a seminary at Grace-hill. When about seven, he was brought to England, to the well-known Fulneck establishment of the brethren, and after five years spent there, he was joined by his younger brothers, Robert and Ignatius, on the occasion of their father and mother proceeding as missionaries to the West Indies. The children were from that time orphans, as they never again saw their parents; but they were well and conscientiously cared for by the brethren. Of the routine and discipline of the Fulneck school, and its influences on Montgomery, the biographers say:—

The seminary had essentially a religious character, and it will be readily admitted that the constant recurrence of such observances as those to which we have alluded [special and peculiarly impressive religious services]—a residence in a community where "religion is what law and custom are elsewhere"—where the people—"work and play; associate together or dwell apart; go out and come in; rise up and lie down; perform every office of life strictly, or at least avowedly under the sanction of the faith of which they are professors"—that such a concurrence of causes would be likely to have their effect upon the mind of a most sensitively organised boy like Montgomery.

The "personal peculiarities" of the boy are thus described:—

When young, Montgomery had a very abundant crop of "carrotty locks;" his constitution early manifested a scrofulous taint of blood, which troubled him a good deal in after-life; he had also a common defect of vision, owing to excessive convexity of the pupil of the eye—a circumstance which, co-operating with morbid sensibilities, was likely enough to throw back upon itself, or into communion with books, the mind of a boy so generally shut out from the excursive and adventurous recreations of his fellow pupils.

His parents desired to see him become a minister in the brethren's Church, and his teachers sought to direct his mind that way, and to prepare him for that office. They instructed him in the classics, in German and French, and in music

as well as in common subjects. The advantages of this training remained, though its object was never attained. It would seem he was not very proficient, however, in these studies, from his own account of what he was at school, and *how he became a poet*:-

"At school (he wrote in 1794), even when I was driven like a coal-ass through the Latin and Greek grammars, I was distinguished for nothing but indolence and melancholy, brought upon me by a raging and lingering fever with which I was suddenly seized one fine summer day, as I lay under a hedge with my companions, listening to our master whilst he read us some animated passages from Blair's poem on the *Grave*. My happier school-fellows, born under milder planets, all fell asleep during the rehearsal; but I, who am always asleep when I ought to be waking, never dreamed of closing an eye, but eagerly caught the contagious malady: and from that ecstatic moment to the present, Heaven knows, I have never enjoyed one cheerful, one peaceful night."

It was then that Montgomery said to himself, "If ever I become a poet, I will write something like this." Subsequently he tells us:-

"The next poem I heard read—for I was not permitted to read it myself—was Blackmore's *Prince Arthur*: this far surpassed anything I had either heard or imagined. It was read to me some time after I had heard the *Grave*, and had even attempted the composition of hymns. There was a rambling majesty in the lines, which completely captivated my mind, and confirmed the resolution produced by Blair; I resolved I would be a Blackmore."

The young enthusiast's first poetic efforts were imitations of the hymns in the old Moravian choir-book, "the most curious collection of sacred lyrics in existence," and "full of ardent expressions, tender complaints, and animated prayers." "These [he says] were my delight." Before he was thirteen, he had filled a little volume with his poetry, although "entirely unacquainted with our great English poets." Although the Fulneck guardianship was so strict that even a volume of sacred extracts from Milton, Young, and others, was subjected to a cutting out of leaves, before it was handed to the boy whose father sent it him; and that, during ten years' residence, Montgomery never had ten minutes' talk with anybody whatever but teachers, fellow-pupils, and Moravian visitors; yet it happened that a newspaper, which found its way to a teacher in the establishment, contained, in its "corner," a few of the then newly-published poems of Burns!—and these he furtively glanced at, we may guess how eagerly. The new poet of the day, Cowper, was, before he left school, put within his reach; but the "style was too pure and simple," and "he thought he could write better verse himself." He continued to fill whole volumes with his verses, and at fifteen projected boldly a poem on *The World*, which was to contain an epitome of the moral, social, and religious history of mankind!—and another on *Alfred the Great*, which was to have consisted of a series of Pindaric odes, in which the story was to be developed. While thus, "in his own little sphere, resolving magnificent projects, to the detriment of the more important but less attractive circle of his school employments . . . his susceptible heart was often perplexed and pierced by the meaning of three sentences in the [Moravian] Litany, which he had hitherto read with a child-like simplicity, so suitable to its character: 'Keep us, our dear Lord and God, from untimely projects, from all loss of our glory in Thee, from unhappily becoming great.' But as it daily became evident to the Fulneck preceptors that the boy was not learning as they desired, that he had incurable eccentricities, as they might think, and that he never would become a satisfactory minister, they determined to put him out to business, and accordingly apprenticed him to a retail shop-keeper at Mirfield, near Leeds. An apparently unpromising arrangement, truly, as Mr. Holland says; but we agree with him that Montgomery's after-regrets about the counteraction of his parents' views as to the ministry were quite unnecessary and unreasonable; he was more useful to man, and to the cause of religion, as the poet, than he could have been as the Moravian clergyman. The wayward lad, apprenticed to the "fine bread baker," at Mirfield, continued his attentions to poetry, to the undoubted neglect of the shop; and filled up his leisure with practice and composition in music also; being, in fact, as he says, "music mad, and used to blow his brains out with a hautboy." After a year and a half with his master, he ran away, taking only a change of linen, his MS. poems, and three and sixpence. He had little idea were to go; so just simply "went south," and at the close of the day reached Doncaster. The next day he proceeded on his journey, and reached Wath—the "Queen of Villages"—near Wentworth, the seat of the Fitzwilliams. By lucky accident, as men would say he obtained at once a situation with a Mr. Hunt, who kept a general store. In this family he felt more "free," and gained the highest esteem and affection of its various members, by his fidelity, intelligence, and piety. In these adventures he showed that he had in him the stuff of which true men are made; and though he afterwards condemned himself as to both character and conduct at the time, others seem to have found him conscientious and friendly, and to have

been readily won to admire and love the aspiring, struggling youth.

[To be continued.]

The Crimea: its Towns, Inhabitants, and Social Customs. By a LADY resident near the Alma.

London: Partridge, Oakey, and Co.

HERE is a little book which furnishes more real information about the Crimea than vastly bigger volumes usually contain—information which, had it been possessed and pondered in the War-office last year, might have saved our brave soldiers and sailors some of their calamities, and the Government some of its disgrace; and which, even after all the letters of special correspondents, officers, and men, will be found to contain much that is valuable and interesting, which does not take the eye of a stranger, especially under such circumstances as those of invasion and war. The author has had every advantage, in her nine years' residence in the Crimea, for acquiring reliable information; and, by speaking several languages, has been able to associate with all classes of its inhabitants. She has repeatedly travelled over almost the whole peninsula, and is well acquainted alike with its common features and its special peculiarities. She has written most concisely and unobtrusively. What book-makers would spin into chapters, she tells you in a paragraph or page; and yet she is not a bald narrator, but an interesting and elegant writer. We only wish the book had been *much longer*; and we heartily recommend it as a very genuine piece of literary work and a useful addition to our knowledge of the Crimean peninsula. The following extracts will sustain our commendations:-

THE BANKS OF THE ALMA.

"From Simpheropol, until we reached the banks of the river Alma, the country is very uninteresting and thinly peopled. A solid stone bridge is thrown over the river, and here, on every side, all is smiling, rich, and luxuriant. Orchards and vineyards follow one another in never-ending succession, and the snug-looking dwellings of their owners, nestling among the trees, give one the idea of comfort and plenty. These orchards, containing sometimes several thousand trees, planted in lines about thirty feet apart, are the principal sources from whence the proprietor derives his income. As soon as the fruit is formed, it is sold to Tartars, whose duty it is to watch and take care of the fruit until it is ripe. They, again, dispose of it to merchants who arrive at the proper season from Moscow and Petersburg, and who convey it thither, closely packed in straw, and sewed up in matting in such bundles as conveniently fit into a cart. It is sometimes a great loss to the Tartars, when, from summer's drought, the fruit falls unripe from the trees; but, as in making their bargain they always calculate on such contingencies, they often realise a large profit. Anything I ever saw in England comes far short of the delicious apples and pears which grow here. The pears particularly are exquisite; for, in addition to their exceedingly fine flavour, they really melt like snow in the mouth. The vineyards on the banks of the Alma produce grapes which are very pleasant and good for the table, but make a very inferior sour wine. It is sold at a very low price to wine-merchants, who concoct of it something which they sell as south-coast wine, but which I need scarcely tell you is anything but palatable. The khans of the Crimea are said to have had their summer residence on the banks of this delightful stream, and on one little hillock, apparently surrounded by a kind of moat, there has evidently been a kiosque, to which an ascent by stairs still remains. . . . I have often wished, while seated there in an open veranda on a fine summer's evening, that my friends at home had been beside me, to enjoy the warm, balmy air, and the songs of the many nightingales which answer one another in one continued song. They warble all night long, heedless alike of the sharp, plaintive cry of a small kind of owl, which seems to wish to compete with them, and the noisy merriment of the frogs, a numerous community. These creatures congregate wherever there is water, and keep up a sort of uproarious laughter—a continued ha! ha! ha! that sounds as if they were half choked with their own merriment—a diabolical merriment, for it is chiefly indulged in during the fine summer evenings; and go where you will, you are greeted with this continued ha! ha! ha! as if the creatures merely existed to laugh at the beauties of nature. The tree frog, chiefly found on the south coast, is, however, an exception; it is an elegant little creature, of a bright green colour, scarcely distinguishable from the leaves of the trees in which it is generally found, whilst its bird-like noise floats along the air in a continuous beautiful silver trill. This pretty little frog is sometimes kept in place of a barometer, in a large glass jar, something like those we see in our druggists' windows. This jar is half filled with water, an artistically-made ladder is inserted into it, upon which the frog, in fine weather, rises to the upper half, and on the approach of a change for the worse, he takes refuge in the water below."

The following passage would have had more interest some months ago; but may not be unattractive or useless even now:-

CRIMEAN WEATHER.

"The weather during the winter is as changeable as that of the summer is settled and steady. The most severe cold which I have felt or heard of in the neighbourhood of Simpheropol, to which part of the Crimea the following remarks apply, was twenty degrees below zero (Fahrenheit), and the greatest heat a hundred degrees above it; but these are extremes, which are of rare occurrence and of short duration. At Sevastopol, the cold is generally five or six degrees less than that at Simpheropol; while at the south coast there is a difference of from twenty to twenty-five degrees. The coldest weather is during the month of January and part of February, when there is generally snow, hard frost, or, what is more difficult to bear than either, a pretty severe frost accompanied by a strong north wind, which penetrates through flannels and furs, and forces

the traveller to retreat to the shelter of a well-heated room. I have often been amused with the venerable look which such weather gives to men of all ages, by the sudden change of the colour of the whiskers and moustache when exposed to its blasts, the particles of frozen breath which adhere to them making them quite white. As for myself, my veil used to be one sheet of ice, and could almost stand upright when I took it off. When the thermometer is above zero, the nostrils stiffen, and to some the breathing is rendered difficult. The snow seldom lies long on the ground, and the most un-congenial and trying seasons are relieved by frequent intervals of fine weather. During the latter part of the month of February, immense numbers of starlings begin to appear, and are welcomed as the harbingers of spring. They always assemble near the habitations of men, and, being reckoned birds of good omen among the Russian peasantry, small houses, like dove-cots, are erected on poles close to their dwellings, ready for their reception. During the stormy and blustering month of March, the meadows are covered with the sweet violet, which fills the air with its delicious perfume; and the fine warm weather, which sets in about the middle of April, again, in its turn, clothes the plains with flowers of every shade and hue; while the crocus, the primrose, and the lily of the valley, grow in all the woods, as large in size and as sweet in perfume as those in gardens in England. . . . In the hot season, which continues during June, July, and August, the thermometer ranges between eighty and a hundred degrees in the shade, during which months the crops are all cut down, the grass is burnt up, and everything looks oppressed with heat. For weeks, sometimes for months, there is not a drop of rain at this season; the very fountains and rivers become almost dry. The earth which is literally baked, is covered with fissures; and the dust on the high road becomes intolerable. . . . The hot winds of the Asiatic deserts, having traversed the Black Sea, occasionally sweep over the Crimea steppes. The air then becomes stifling, everything droops, and though the sun is generally veiled at these times, the heat is intense. On one occasion whilst seated at my work in an open verandah with a northern exposure, during one of these hot winds, my face, hands, and neck were completely blistered by it."

We should have been glad to quote from the chapters on the people and social condition of the Crimea, but our space forbids.

Law, Police, and Assize.

At Salisbury, William Wright has been convicted of the murder of Ann Collins, at Lydiard Tregoz. She had lived with him, but left him for a time; on her return, he killed her, and attempted to destroy himself. He was sentenced to be hanged.

At Lincoln, Elizabeth Lownd, a girl of eighteen, was tried for the murder of her illegitimate infant. She appears to have buried it alive—placed it on the ground, and covered it with earth and sods. She was in great distress when she committed the inhuman act. The Jury gave a verdict for the lesser offence of "manslaughter." Sentence, fifteen years' transportation.

At Maidstone, on Friday, the young girl who is suspected of having murdered an old lady, her mistress, at Rochester, was tried on the capital charge and acquitted. It will be remembered that the girl was found with a slight wound in her throat, and that she told an extraordinary story about two men who had come in for dust, having murdered the deceased with a cleaver and then cut her throat. She at the same time said, "I am innocent, and I hope no one will accuse me of anything of this sort."

The rehearing of the celebrated case of "Butler v. Mountgarrett" commenced on Friday at Kilkenny Assizes before Baron Greene and a special jury. The late Attorney-General (Mr. Brewster) again opened the case for the plaintiff; but several days must of necessity be consumed before the final issue can be arrived at. It is not every day that a disputed peerage, with 10,000/- a-year annexed, falls into the law-market, so that, even were the verdict for a second time to be against the defendant, it would be but the preparatory step for the renewal of legal hostilities in another and more costly field of action.

Mr. Charles W. W. Bevan, secretary to the Universal Provident Life Assurance, and formerly secretary of the Deposit and General Life Assurance Company, is in custody on a charge of embezzling the funds of the latter company. There are several charges against him,—embezzling money received from agents, receiving money for shares and appropriating it to his own use, and not applying checks given to him by the Directors for specific purposes, such as re-assurance of lives in other offices; but they were not fully entered upon at Guildhall, on Monday, when Bevan surrendered himself. His counsel said that every charge could be satisfactorily met—his client was accused because he had taken his influence to another office. Alderman Humphrey offered to take bail for the accused in 500/-, with twenty-four hours' notice: in the mean time Bevan was sent to Newgate.

Four persons, one of whom was fifteen and another seventeen years old, have been sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour for stealing bread from bakers' shops at the East of London on the occasion of the late bread riots. Mr. Witham said he had no doubt that these so-called "bread riots" were got up by a lot of thieves and vagabonds for the purposes of plunder. They got a mob collected, and if they found a respectable person in it, he was knocked about and robbed. The prosecutor in one case applied for compensation for the loss of his goods and the injury to his shop. Mr. Witham said he had no power to order compensation. He believed the prosecutor could claim recompence from the hundred of the country in which the shop was situated, if a declaration was made within a certain time; but he had better apply to the magistrate for the district in which the riots took place.

Gleanings.

The admissions to the Crystal Palace for the six days ending March 16 were 6,119.

A lady asked a veteran which rifle carried the maximum distance. The old chap answered, the Minie's.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has received the handsome sum of 500*l.* as "conscience-money" for Income-tax, from a "Junior Partner."

A man has been fined by the Lynn magistrates for using language calculated to prevent persons from enlisting in Her Majesty's service.

Frosted potatoes may be rendered as good as ever by being soaked for about ten minutes in salt and water previous to boiling.

A person who undertakes to raise himself by scandalising others, might as well sit down on a wheelbarrow, and try to wheel himself.

Sir Henry Bishop, we learn with great regret, is confined to a sick bed, and reduced by neglect and penury to a state which it is painful to contemplate.—*Manchester Guardian.*

Tom Moore's "Last Rose of Summer," in his own handwriting, was recently sold by auction for two guineas. Burns's "Cottar's Saturday Night," on the same occasion, brought 20*l.* 10*s.*

There is a man in New York so opposed to Catholicism that he won't travel on cross roads. He is the same that won't eat beef for fear it might be a portion of the Pope's last bull.—*American Paper.*

The *Baltimore Sun* sheds a new light on this age of wonders. Mrs. Emma Coe was registered in the District Court on Friday, and will enter upon the study of the law with W. S. Pierce, Esq.

"Pray, Mr. Professor, what is a periphrasis?" "Madam, it is simply a circumlocutory and plenastic cycle of oratorical sonorosity, circumscribing an atom of ideality, lost in a verbal profundity." "Thank you, Sir."

About thirty cart-loads of water-cresses are brought to the Paris markets daily, and the value of them is estimated at about 300*l.* each. Upwards of 3,000,000*l.* worth of water-cresses is consequently sold in Paris annually.

There are in England 2,406 brewers, 61,736 victuallers, and 44,236 licensed to sell beer. In Scotland there are 124 brewers, and 13,667 victuallers; and in Ireland, 101 brewers, and 15,667 victuallers.—*Parliamentary Papers.*

A monument has at length been placed over the grave of the late Rev. Dr. M'All, who died sixteen years ago, at Manchester, at which place he had been for eleven years the pastor of the Independent chapel, Mosley-street.

The two Bulgarian children, whose capture and guardianship by the officers of the Firebrand will be remembered, were landed from the Britannia, on Saturday, at Osborne, where the Queen, who has adopted them, has had a cottage prepared for their reception.

A well-known fashionable lady, resident in New York, lately issued 500 cards for a calico-dress ball, in behalf of the poor. Each lady appeared in a calico dress, which she was desired to send the next day to Mrs. —. The ball brought about 400 dresses for the poor.

An American planter at Augusta, Georgina, was so delighted a few weeks since with the performance of an English actress, that he offered her a present afterwards, of a negro boy! The lady, much to his surprise, was greatly offended, and indignantly declined the offer.

The *New York Christian Advocate* records a revival in the Shirleysburg Circuit, and after reporting the numbers who have joined the Church, adds, in italics —as the choicest item in the paragraph—"Brother Hinkle has succeeded in doubling the list of subscribers to our excellent paper."

Man is but a rough pebble, without the attrition received from contact with the gentler sex; it is wonderful how the ladies pumice a man down into smoothness, which occasions him to roll over and over with the rest of his species, jostling but not wounding his neighbours, as the waves of circumstances bring him into collision with them.—*Captain Marryatt.*

At the Bottisham Petty sessions the other day, a youth, whose vocation is to gather dirt off the roads, was charged with helping himself pretty freely from a farmer's heap, when the following colloquy took place: Magistrate: "Do you know the Lord's Prayer?" Boy: "No!" Magistrate: "Where do boys go who tell a lie?" Boy: "Don't know." Magistrate: "Where does a good boy go to?" Boy: "Home as soon as he has filled his barrow!"

The following from a pro-slavery paper in one of the Southern States of America is very touching:—"A girl met her death at Clarksville yesterday by burning. Her clothes took fire while she slept in a chair. Aroused, she ran towards her master's room. Mr. Watkins forced her out of the door, and threw her in a mud puddle, supposing that he would thus be enabled to extinguish the flames, but failed to do so. She was one of the likeliest girls we ever saw, and would have sold for 1,000*l.* on the block."

A correspondent of the *Sun*, who signs himself "Levi," alludes to Sir Frederick's opposition to Mr. Heywood's bill touching marriage with a deceased wife's sister. The conclusion (says he) to which Sir F. Thessiger's "mature consideration" of the book of Leviticus has brought him, leads me to hope confidently that he will shortly feel it his imperative duty to bring in a bill for making it obligatory upon a childless (Christian) widow to marry the next brother of her deceased husband!

In a course of lectures recently delivered by Prof. St. Hilaire, at Paris, on animals useful to man, the professor strongly urged the introduction of horse-

flesh as an aliment. After an elaborate disquisition on the equine physiology, it was stated that the ancient Germans were in the habit of eating horse-flesh, and that to this day shops for the sale of this meat, under the superintendence of a veterinary college, exist by royal authority in Copenhagen. The professor added, that during the great French wars, the celebrated surgeon Larrey was accustomed to give horseflesh to the wounded soldiers, and that he attributed their cure in many instances to this nourishment. From these and many other facts, M. St. Hilaire argues that the horse is intended not only to be useful to man as a beast of burden, but also to provide him with wholesome and nutritious food. We believe that Paris *restaurants* have long been in the habit of mixing horseflesh in their savoury ragouts, which appear by another name in the *carte*. Supported by the scientific authority of M. St. Hilaire, we fancy *entremets-de-cheval* may figure largely in Paris during the ensuing summer.—*Athenaeum.*

It is estimated that the current expenses of the Churches in Boston (U.S.), amount to 240,000 dollars a year. The value of the Church estates is about 4,000,000 dollars. The expenses of the different societies vary from 1,500 dollars to 5,600 dollars a year. The cost for public worship in the churches occupied by the wealthier of the citizens will average about one hundred dollars a Sunday; the clergyman has a salary of 3,000 dollars, the music costs about 1,000 dollars, and the miscellaneous expenses will be from 1,000 dollars to 1,500 dollars a year. The taxes on the pews vary from eight dollars to seventy dollars a year, according to their value. The Methodist preachers have the smallest average salaries, and the Unitarians the largest.

BIRTH.

Dec. 29th, at Albion Township, Victoria, Mrs. JOSEPH HAGGER, of a son.

March 12th, at 30, Saumarez-street, New Town, Guernsey, the wife of CHARLES JAMES METCALFE, Esq., of a son.

MARRIAGES.

At the Congregational Chapel, Stone, by the Rev. Thos. Adams, Mr. JOSEPH SIME, to Miss MARY HASSALL, both of Stone.

December 1st, 1854, at Adelaide, by the Rev. T. Q. Stow (uncle of the bride), assisted by the Rev. J. L. Poole, ANDREW GAMMAN, Esq., M.A., third son of ROBERT GAMMAN, Esq., of Wilmot-square, Bethnal-green, to MARY ISHAM, eldest daughter of R. SABINE, Esq., formerly of Bury St. Edmunds.

March 12th, at Ebenezer Chapel, Sunderland, by the Rev. R. W. M'All, Mr. WILLIAM HENRY FEEK to Miss ELEANOR HUNTER.

March 13th, at South Hackney Church, by the Rev. G. P. Lockwood, M.A., Hector, WILLIAM, eldest son of WILLIAM MULLER, Esq., of West Hackney, to LOUISA MARY FOAD, youngest daughter of the late Lieutenant JOHN ANDERSON, R.N., and niece of Commander JAMES FOAD, R.N.

March 13th, at Horton, Gloucestershire, by the Rev. E. K. Fayle, Joseph ROBERT LUMLEY, of Harleston, Northamptonshire, Esq., to SARAH, relict of RENN HAMPDEN, of Balls, in the island of Barbadoes, Esq., and late M.P., for Marlow, Bucks.

March 14th, at the Congregational Chapel, Henley-on-Thames, by the Rev. James Rowdon, Mr. HENRY COLLINS, of High Wycombe, to Miss RHODA SOUNDRY.

March 15th, at Croydon, Surrey, by the Rev. John George Hodgson, M.A., Vicar, the Rev. JOHN MARTINDALE FARRAS, M.A., to FRANCES, the only surviving child of the late JOHN KEY, Esq., of Water Fulford, in the county of York.

March 15th, at the Weigh House Chapel, by the Rev. Thomas Binney, J. EBENEZER SAUNDERS, jun., Esq., of Finsbury-circus, to JANE, eldest daughter of J. MICHAEL BARNARD, Esq., of the Old Bailey.

March 15th, at St. James's, Paddington, by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, THOMAS MATTHEW GIBSON, Esq., of Walton-hall, near Burton-on-Trent, to CAROLINE FRANCES, eldest daughter of WILLIAM WILBERFORCE BIRD, Esq., of Sussex-square, Hyde-park.

DEATHS.

Lately, before Sebastopol, JOHN HERRMAN HODGSKIN, the eldest son of Mr. T. HODGSKIN, of Islington.

March 9th, at Portsea, Mr. JOHN MORTIMER, aged eighty-one. He was for more than thirty-five years a useful and active Superintendent of the Sabbath-school in connexion with King-street chapel, and fourteen years a deacon of the church.

March 10th, at Ashton, Northamptonshire, in the twenty-first year of her age, after a long affliction, borne with Christian patience and resignation to the Divine will, CHARLOTTE, the beloved and only daughter of Mr. WILLIAM JUNSBY.

March 11th, at St. Leonard's-on-Sea, the Lady HARRIET PAGE, daughter of GEORGE, third Earl of DARTMOUTH, K.G., and relict of General the Hon. Sir EDWARD PAGE, G.C.B.

March 11th, suddenly, at his residence, Denmark-hill, Camberwell, aged fifty-five, JOHN VAIZEY, Esq., of Gray's-inn, and eldest son of the late JOHN VAIZEY, Esq., of Star-hill, Halstead, Essex.

March 11th, at Connaught-square, JOHN BAILIE, Esq., only son of the late Lieutenant-General BAILIE, Bombay Army.

March 11th, in London, Lieutenant-General Sir THOMAS HENRY BROWNE, K.C.H., Colonel of the 80th Regiment.

March 12th, at Springside, near Bury, DANIEL GRANT, Esq., one of the partners of the firm of WILLIAM GRANT and Brothers, spinners and calico printers, Manchester, aged seventy-six years.

March 12th, at Bath, ANNA, the wife of D. R. MORRIS, Esq., late H. M.'s Minister in Switzerland.

March 14th, ROBERT BOUSFIELD, Esq., of Newington-place, Kennington, in the ninetieth year of his age.

March 14th, at Longsight, Manchester, aged sixty, CHARLOTTE, the beloved wife of Mr. J. W. LIGGINS.

March 16th, in Sloane-street, Mrs. DUNCOMBE, aged ninety-two.

March 16th, at Birkenhead, WILLIAM, second surviving son of the late GEORGE LEWIS, Esq., Surgeon, Wrexham. Aged thirty-two.

Money Market and Commercial Intelligence.

CITY, Monday Evening.

The Stock Market has not been active during the past week, though in the earlier part there was an upward tendency. On Saturday the Funds were unfavourably influenced by the telegraphic statements from St. Petersburg that Sebastopol remained without damage up to the 8th inst., and that a body of Turks had sustained a reverse at Eupatoria on the 5th.

To-day, the market opened rather dull and continued weak. Consols remain at 93*1/2* for Money, and 93*1/2* to 94*1/2* for the 11th April. India Bonds, 11*s.* Exchequer-bills, 7*s.* to 9*s.* prem. Ditto Bonds, 99*1/2* to 99*1/4*.

There has been little doing in Foreign Securities, and prices are somewhat flatter. The only transactions were—Brazilian 5 per Cents., at 102; Spanish

3 per Cents., dull at 36*1/2*; Turkish Bonds for Account, 80*1/2*; Belgian 4*1/2* per Cent., 94; Dutch 4 per Cent. Certificates, 94*1/2*.

In the Share Market business was quiet, with but little alteration on Saturday's prices. A few Stocks were dealt in at rather lower rates. Midlands were dull at 69*1/2* to 69*1/4*. North Westerns, 99*1/2* to 100. Great Westerns, 65*1/2*. Great Northerns, 88*1/2*. South Easterns, 61*1/2*. Norfolks were 1*1/2* lower. Royal Swedish, 3*1/2* paid, were 1*1/2* to 1*1/4* ex int. Scinde rather lower, at 4 prem.

Bank Shares generally were flat. Australasia, 83. Oriental, 39*1/2*. Union of Australia, 65. Chartered of do., 21 to 21*1/2*. Canada Company's Shares, 120*1/2*. Canada Government Debentures, 108*1/2*. Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 57*1/2* to 58*1/2*. Van Dieman's Land Shares higher, at 13*1/2*.

The Corn Market was steady to-day, with prices about 2*s.* per quarter dearer than last week.

The movements of the precious metals last week were again important. The arrivals amounted to about 1,000,000*l.*, against an export of only about 560*l.*

The last returns from the Bank of England are again favourable. They show a further increase in the stock of bullion and reserve of notes, and also in the private deposits; and a decrease in the private securities or bills discounted, loans, &c.

The accounts of the trade of the manufacturing towns during the past week present no material change. At Manchester prices on the average are rather lower, and the market has been dull and uncertain. The Birmingham report shows less depression, although the anxiety to sell is such as to exclude all immediate prospect of any decided recovery. There have been no new failures, but Mr. Selby, whose insolvency in the iron trade had been reported for some time, has at length appeared in the Bankruptcy Court with debts stated at 170,000*l.* and assets at about 80,000*l.* In most branches of the business of the place a reduction of wages is being carried out. In some specific instances, however—such as copper and its manufactures, and the manufacture of agricultural implements—the demand is good, and prices are well maintained. At Nottingham the increased animation described in the last report has not been permanent. In the woollen districts there has been a partial revival; but the best hopes with regard to the present year are limited to a fair average of business. In the Irish linen markets also, from the effects of diminished production, a slight tendency to improvement has at length been manifested.

The departures from the port of London for the Australian colonies during the week have comprised seven vessels—three to Adelaide, with an aggregate burthen of 1,377 tons; two to Port Phillip, with an aggregate burthen of 1,064 tons; one to Sydney, of 328 tons; and one to New Zealand, of 819 tons. Their total capacity was 3,588 tons.

PROGRESS OF THE STOCKS DURING THE WEEK.

	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Mos.
3 per C. Consols	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i> t	93 <i>1/2</i> t	93 <i>1/2</i> t	93
Consols for Account	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i> t	93 <i>1/2</i> t	93 <i>1/2</i> t	93 <i>1/2</i> t	93 <i>1/2</i>
3 per Cent. Red.	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	—
New 3 per Cent.	Shut	Shut	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>
Annuities	Shut	Shut	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>	93 <i>1/2</i>
India Stock	227	227	227	227	227	—
Bank Stock	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	Shut	—
Exchequer-bills	6 pm	9 pm	9 pm	9 pm	9 pm	9 pm
India Bonds	—	—	11 pm	11 pm	—	11 pm
Long Annuities	4 <i>1/2</i>	Shut	—	Shut	Shut	—

The Gazette.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's *Gazette*.)

An Account, pursuant to the act 7th and 8th Victoria, c. 29, for the week ending on Saturday, the 10th day of March, 1855.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

Notes issued	£26,911,880	Government Debt	£11,010,100
<tbl

CHARLESWORTH, T., Nottingham, plumber, March 27, May 1; solicitor, Mr. Coope, Nottingham.

MOOR, J. B., and LEWIS, J., Ystalyfera Graig, Glamorganshire, drapers, March 27, April 24; solicitors, Messrs. Cornish and Parnell, Bristol.

JENNINGS, W., Bradford, Yorkshire, linendraper, March 29, April 20; solicitors, Messrs. Terry and Watson, Bradford; and Bond and Barwick, Leeds.

FRANCIS, W. D., Bridgwater, Somersetshire, plumber, March 27, April 20; solicitors, Messrs. Ruddock and Amber, Bridgwater, and Stogdon, Exeter.

NICHOLSON, R., Kingston-upon-Hull, sail maker, March 28, April 18; solicitors, Messrs. Wells and Smith, Hull.

HOLLAND, H., Liverpool, merchant, March 27, April 18; solicitor, Mr. Dodge, Liverpool.

JACKSON, M., and HEDGWELL, T., Droylsden, Lancashire, March 27, April 27; solicitors, Messrs. Darnton, Ashton-under-Lyne.

PENNINGTON, C., Manchester, builder, April 3, 26; solicitors, Messrs. Sale and Co., Manchester.

SAMUEL, J. P., Blackburn, Lancashire, shuttle manufacturer, March 28, April 18; solicitors, Messrs. Howley and Son, Manchester.

FRANCIS, W., Bedlington, Durham, brewer, March 28, April 24; solicitors, Messrs. Hodge and Hale, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

GARNETT, W., South Shields, Durham, boot and shoemaker, March 28, April 24; solicitors, Messrs. Shield and Harwood, Clement's-lane, City; and Watson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

M'GREGOR, D., Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Dalston Paper Mill, Northumberland, dealer in marine stores, March 27, April 27; solicitors, Messrs. Crosby, Church-court, City; and Hoyle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

DIVIDENDS.

April 12, W. Steeds, Eversedge, Somersetshire, tallow chandler—April 7, Ann Wilkinson, Croxemere, Shropshire, inn-keeper—April 23, R. W. Spender, Market Drayton, Shropshire, chemist—April 18, W. Bentley, Oldham, Lancashire, iron-founder—April 12, J. Robinson, Manchester, perfumer—April 13, J. Smith and R. Simpson, Burnley, Lancashire, ironfounders—April 7, W. Jones, Liverpool, shipwright—April 5, R. Atkinson, Hornington, Yorkshire, oil manufacturer—April 10, S. Ryde, Plymouth, flour factor—April 10, R. Callard, Devonport, coach proprietor.

PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

J. Pollock and Ann Pollock, Ewell, Surrey, general shop keepers—R. Read and T. Hodgson, Huddersfield, bobbin makers—J. Hore and H. Hore, Cophall-court, Throgmorton-street, merchants—J. Stokeld and G. Stokeld, Seaham Harbour and Jarrow, Durham, grocers—G. Timperley and T. H. Arden, Middlewich, salt manufacturers—A. Upward and J. Kearney, King's-square, Goswell-road, manure merchants—W. B. Moffatt and A. Bevan, Adelaide-place, City, architects—T. Bradley and H. Brook, Huddersfield, ironfounders—John and Joseph Lever, Neate-street, Camberwell, parchment manufacturers—D. Herd and A. Herd, Guildford, Surrey, grocers—E. Hill and M. Atkin, Lenton, Nottinghamshire, lace manufacturers—E. H. Abbott and H. G. Nottingham, Aldermanbury, City, warehousemen—B. Sykes, Jun., and W. R. Taylor, Golcar, Yorkshire, woollen cloth manufacturers—G. G. Gough and J. Davies, Liverpool, painters—T. Cooper and T. Bentley, Longton, Staffordshire, manufacturers of china—G. Cottier and W. P. Cottier, Witham, Essex, cabinet makers—W. Caw and S. Caw, Thirsk, Yorkshire, common brewers—G. Webb and C. Dixon, John-street, Pentonyville, brewers—J. Preston and executors and E. W. Gartham, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, drapers—R. Rigby and W. E. Rigby, Runcorn, Cheshire, drapers—S. Flavel and W. H. Betts, Leamington-Priors, and Emscote, Warwickshire, ironfounders—W. Brinkley and T. W. Cheeseman, Bruton-place, Berkeley-square, builders—J. P. Robinson and Lydia Robinson, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, milliners—J. C. G. L. and J. E. Munro, Gracechurch-street, City, merchants—J. Chadwick, Jun., and Alice Lowe, Salford, Lancashire, makers of patented grates or grills—E. Dawson and W. L. Davies, Manchester, yarn dealers—J. W. Cole and J. W. Taylor, New Bond-street, tailors—Rebecca and H. Hooper, Imber, Wiltshire, farmers.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

M'LELLAN, P., Glasgow, grocer, March 21.
Martin, J., Glasgow, clothier, March 26.
Galbraith, H., Haddington, ironmonger, March 27.
A. W. Shanks, Barbeggs, Cumberland, manufacturer, March 26.

DECLARATIONS OF DIVIDENDS.

HACKNEY, J. H., St. Helen's-place, City, merchant, first div. of 3s. 4d., March 19, and any subsequent Monday, at Cannan's, Aldermanbury—Ivory, W., Norwich, wholesale grocer, first div. of 2s. 4d., March 19, and any subsequent Monday, at Cannan's, Aldermanbury—Jenkins, J. T., Deptford, builder, first div. of 1s. 2d., March 19, and any subsequent Monday, at Cannan's, Aldermanbury—Fletcher, I., Liverpool, stock broker, first div. of 1s. 2d., March 12, and any subsequent Monday, at Bird's, Liverpool—Barnes, J., Ulverstone, Lancashire, grocer, first div. of 2s. 7d., March 27, and any subsequent Tuesday, at Fraser's, Manchester.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, March 19.
To-day's market was very moderately supplied with English wheat. For all kinds, the demand was steady, at an advance in the quotations obtained on Monday last of from 1s to 2s per quarter. Foreign wheat, the show of which was but very moderate, was tolerably firm, and, in some instances, prices were the turn higher. We had rather an improved demand for barley, at last week's currency. Malt sold heavily, on former terms. The supply was good. The oat trade was firm, at 6d to 1s per quarter above last Monday's quotations. Beans and peas were steady, at full prices. There was more doing in flour, the value of which had an upward tendency. No market will be held here on Wednesday next.

CURRENT PRICES OF GRAIN AND FLOUR IN MARK LANE.

	Per Qr.	Per Qr.
WHEAT.	s. d.	s. d.
Essex, Kent, &c., red	64 72	33 36
" white	67 85	36 38
Foreign	red 64 72	38 41
" white	74 82	36 40
RYE	41 43	
BARLEY.		s. d.
English Malting, New..	29 32	25 0 29 0
" Chevalier	33 34	28 0 30 0
" Distilling	28 30	29 0 32 0
" Foreign	27 30	28 0 30 0
MALT.—Pale	66 68	30 0 32 0
" Chevalier	68 70	26 0 30 0
" Brown	62 66	24 0 29 0
BEANS.—Ticks, new...	36 40	28 0 30 0
" old...	36 40	28 0 30 0
" Harrow, new...	36 40	28 0 30 0
" old...	—	—
" Small, new...	41 44	28 0 30 0
" old...	—	—
Foreign, Egyptian	38 40	28 0 30 0
" In bond	—	28 0 30 0
FLOUR.		
Town-made & first country marks,		
" per sack	63 0 65 0	
Norfolk, Suffolk	48 0 54 0	

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD

Monday, March 19.
There was a slight increase in the supply of foreign stock in to-day's market. From our own grazing districts, the arrivals of beasts fresh up this morning were seasonably good, and in excellent condition; indeed, there were very few what may be termed inferior beasts in the market. Although the attendance of buyers was rather extensive, the beef trade was in a sluggish state, at a decline in the prices of Monday last of 2d per lbs. The highest quotation for Scots was 4s 1d per lbs. The receipts of beasts from Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire were, 2,500 Scots and shorthorns from other parts of England, 500 of

various breeds; and, from Scotland, 240 horned and polled Scots. With sheep we were fairly supplied, and their general condition was good. The mutton trade was not so active as on this day seenight; nevertheless, the quotations were supported. The best old Downs, in the wool, were worth 6s 2d per lbs. Those out of the wool realised 4s per lbs. About 3,000 shorn sheep were in the market. The supply of calves was moderate; whilst the veal trade ruled inactive, on easier terms; the highest figure being 5s per lbs. Pigs were in full average supply, and sluggish request, at last week's quotations. The arrivals of stock by sea from Ireland, last week, amounted to 27 beasts.

Per lbs. to sink the offal.

s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inf. coarse beasts	3 2 to 3 4	Pr. coarse woolled	4 6 to 4 10		
Second quality	3 6 4 2	Prime Southdown	5 0 5 2		
Prime large oxen	4 4 4 6	Lge. coarse calves	4 0 4 6		
Prime Scots, &c.	4 8 4 10	Prime small	4 8 5 0		
Coarse inf. sheep	3 6 3 10	Large hogs	3 0 4 0		
Second quality	4 0 4 4	Neat sm. porkers	4 2 4 4		
Suckling calves, 23s to 28s; Quarter-old-store-pigs, 21s to 25s; each					

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, March 19.
There has been a decided increase in the arrivals of country-killed meat up to these markets since Monday last; but the show of town-slaughtered here, to-day, was very moderate. On the whole, a fair amount of business was transacted, at our quotations.

Per lbs. by the carcass.

s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Inferior beef	2d to 3d	4d	Inf. mutton	3s 4d to 3s 6d	
Middling ditto	3s 6d	3s 8d	Middling ditto	3s 8d	3s 10d
Prime large eddo	3s 10d	4s 0d	Prime ditto	4s 0d	4s 6d
Do. small do.	4s 2d	4s 4d	Veal	3s 8d	4s 8d
Large pork	3s 0d	3s 8d	Small pork	3s 10d	4s 6d

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, March 19.—Very little was done in Irish butter last week. Holders were anxious to sell at a decline of 2s on previous rates, but made slow progress. The market ended dull. Foreign was dealt in to a fair extent at a further reduction of from 2s to 6s, according to kind and quality. Bacon was rather more saleable, in consequence of limited supplies, and higher advices from Ireland. No arrivals from Hamburg. Hams and lard without alteration.

PRICES OF BUTTER, CHEESE, HAMS, &c.

s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Friesland, per cwt...	110 to 113	Cheshire (new) per cwt.	66 to 80		
Kiel	108	118	Cheddar	68	80
Dorset	104	112	Double Gloucester	60	70
Carlton	100	108	Single ditto	56	66
Waterford	94	100	York Hams (new)...	80	86
Cork (new)	92	100	Westmoreland ditto ...	78	81
Limerick	84	94	Irish ditto	68	78
Sligo	96	102	Wiltshire Bacon (dried) 6s	68	68
Fresh, per dozen...	14	18	Ditto (green) 5s	59	62

POTATOES, BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, March 19.

The supplies of potatoes here have become rather extensive, and in excellent condition. The demand is heavy, as follows: York regents, 110s to 120s; Kent and Essex ditto, 100s to 110s; Scotch ditto, 90s to 100s; ditto reds, 75s to 85s; middlings, 70s to 75s; blues, 70s to 80s; Lincolns, 100s to 110s; York plants, 110s to 120s per ton.

HOPS, BONCOUR, Monday, March 19.—Although our market is tolerably firm as to price, the business doing is very moderate. Last week's imports were 14 bales from Antwerp, 287 from New York, and 2 from Boston.

SEEDS, LONDON, Monday, March 19.—There is a good business doing in cloverseed, on higher terms. All other seeds are quite as dear as last week. Cakes support former terms.

TALLOW, LONDON, Monday, March 19.—We continue to have a very slow sale for all kinds of tallow, and P.Y.C. on the spot, quoted at 47s 9d to 48s per cwt. Town tallow, 47s net cash; rough fat, 2s 7d per lbs.

PARTICULARS.

	1851.	1852.	1853.	1854.	1855.
Stock	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.
	37416	45143	35090	35483	35532
Price of Yellow Candle	27s 0d	3			

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